FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Soviet Union

Vol III No 020

30 January 1985

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More on Lomeyko Briefing

LD291639 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS -- There is an objective possibility to achieve success at the Stockholm Conference on Security and Confidence Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, said Vladimir Lomeyko, head of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. Answering questions asked by newsmen, he stressed that the overwhelming majority of countries and the broad international public realize the need of urgent measures to build up trust and security, and measures leading toward real concrete disarmament.

It is precisely the realization of the growing danger of the race in nuclear and conventional arms, of spread of the arms race into outer space that serves as an objective basis which makes it possible to achieve progress in Stockholm. Of course, progress or lack of it depends on the extent to which all the participating states will display political will to arrive at mutually acceptable accords effectively leading to the creation of an atmosphere of trust, to real buildup of security, to limitation and termination of the arms race.

Analysing the course of work of the Stockholm conference, Lomeyko said that a useful exchange of views had taken place at the conference in the past period. The sides defined their positions more exactly. The delegations of the U.S.S.R. and other socialist countries, a group of neutral and nonaligned countries entered important proposals on the credit side of the conference. The Soviet proposals on no first use of nuclear weapons and on concluding a treaty on mutual non-use of military force are firmly on the agenda of the conference. Two working groups were established for concrete examination of confidence and security building measures.

A good start has been made. What should come next is transition to concrete, business-like consideration of questions and attainment of substantial agreements on mutually supplementing confidence and security building measures, both of political, international legal and military-technical character on the basis of the equality of the rights, balance and reciprocity, equal respect for the security interests of all the participating states [sentence as received]. Success of the conference and its prospects depend on the political will and desire of the sides to attain the aims of the conference.

Answering the question concerning interrelationship between agreement on the negotiations in Geneva and the current conference in Stockholm, Lomeyko said that agreement reached on the negotiations in Geneva to a certain measure promoted the improvement of the atmosphere in which disarmament problems are discussed at different international fora. This, more felicitous atmosphere can and, in our opinion, should exert a positive influence on the work of the Stockholm conference. Whether this possibility is realize or not -- time will show.

Evaluating the position of the nonaligned and neutral countries on the problem of setting limits to the arms race and in a broader context, Lomeyko stressed that in the Soviet Union, including at the highest levels, the activities of the Nonaligned Movement on that plane had more than once been appraised highly. By way of the latest example one can refer to a declaration adopted in New Delhi January 28 by a meeting of heads of state and government of six countries five out of which are neutral or nonaligned. The declaration expresses profound apprehension in connection with the existing state of affairs in the world, and concern for the future of mankind.

At the same time it is permeated with the realization of the heavy responsibility for ensuring that all states, primarily, nuclear weapon states, do everything to stop the race in arms, above all, in nuclear arms, prevent the spread of the arms race into space and avert the nuclear war threat looming large over mankind.

Lomeyko said that the neutral and nonaligned countries, taking part in the European process, had made a positive contribution some time back to the successful completion of the Madrid meeting and convocation of the Stockholm conference. They are putting forward initiatives, and with their activities at the conference promoting fulfillment of its main tasks -- that of achieving a stage-by-stage implementation of effective and concrete actions aimed at building up confidence and security and attaining disarmament.

Envoy Grinevskiy Interviewed

LD292008 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent Lev Novikov report from Stockholm over video]

[Text] The latest session of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe started today. Taking part are the representatives of 33 European states, the United States, and Canada. The Soviet delegation is headed by Comrade Grinevskiy, special ambassador. Our special correspondent Lev Novikov reports:

Fundamental talks on the major international problems which concern people of the most varied political views have resumed in Stockholm. The delegates are united by a clear recognition of the fact that detente has no alternative. They are hoping that the ice of mistrust which, after a slight thaw and having broken a little, will start to melt. In the break between sittings, we interviewed the head of the Soviet delegation.

[Begin Grinevskiy video recording] The conference has begun concrete negotiations in earnest: There has long been a struggle to get the conference to take up major, fundamental questions of strengthening peace and security in Europe. This is the essence of what is happening at the conference. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko has stressed on more than one occasion that the main thing now is to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, to maintain peace. The accord reached in Geneva on holding Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear weapons is a step toward healing international tension, the international atmosphere.

This unquestionably also facilitates the creation of a more favorable atmosphere for the work of the Stockholm forum. The formation at the end of the last session of two working groups, which reflected the Soviet concept of simultaneous review both of political and of military matters, allows us now to embark on practical negotiations. So, if the United States and the other NATO countries -- not in words but in deeds -- display a readiness for honest, equal negotiations, then this will allow a start to be made on questions on the agenda in greater depth.

The USSR and the Warsaw Pact countries are ready for such constructive negotiations. The proposals raised by them directed at a radical improvement of the situation in Europe provide for a broad spectrum of measures from non-first-use of nuclear weapons to supplying information about major exercises and troop movements.

In order to provide a stimulus from the very beginning for businesslike discussion of one of the central questions at the conference, the Soviet delegation today put forward a working document -- basic provisions for a treaty on mutual nonsue of military force and for maintaining peaceful relations. The pivotal provision of the proposed treaty -- signatories to which could be all the 35 states represented at the conference -- is a pledge not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against each other, and consequently never to use military force against each other.

How much better it would be in the world if such a pledge became an immutable law of human society. [end recording]

Soviet Document Reported

LD300941 Moscow TASS in English 0834 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS -- The Soviet delegation has tabled at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which resumed in session, a new important document on basic provisions of the treaty on mutual non-use of military force and maintaining relations of peace. The core of the proposed treaty, parties to which could become all the 35 states represented at the conference, the newspaper PRAVDA points out in a dispatch from Stockholm, is the commitment not to be the first to use one against the other either nuclear or conventional weapons and, consequently, not to use military force against each other in general.

"It could also provide for the commitment not to use force against the third countries, whether they be in bilateral relations of alliance with them, or are non-aligned or neutral. The parties to the treaty would make efforts to prevent an outer space weapons race, a limitation and reduction of weapons, and disarmament on the basis of the principles of equal rights, a balanced character and reciprocity, equal respect for the security interests."

"Simultaneously such a treaty provides for an increase in the effectiveness of the U.N. with the implementation, in conformity with its Charter, of tasks for a peaceful settlement of international disputes and conflict situations, suppression of acts of aggression, elimination of the threat to international peace and security. If the danger of war and use of military force emerges the parties to the treaty should hold urgent consultations. At the same time the treaty would not limit the inalienable right to individual and collective defence in accordance with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter".

The treaty would be open to all other states and come into force after all participants in the Warsaw Treaty and the North Atlantic Alliance accede to it.

As a PRAVDA correspondent was told by O.A. Grinevskiy, the head of the Soviet delegation, the Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that it would be much better to live on earth, had such a commitment on non-use of force and maintenance of peace become undeniable law.

PRAVDA Views Prospects

PM291546 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 85 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent M. Kostikov dispatch: "Stockholm: On the Eve of the Next Session"]

[Text] Stockholm, January -- At the end of this January, which has been unusually frosty, the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe resumes its work in the Swedish capital.

A year has elapsed since the opening day of this representative international forum, in which 33 European states and the United States and Canada are participating -- that is, those countries that signed the CSCE Final Act in Helsinki almost 10 years ago.

It is a stone's throw from Helsinki to Stockholm. Their geographic proximity today focuses the gaze of the world public precisely on effectively continuing the all-European process begun in Helsinki at the Stockholm conference. The preconditions exist for the Stockholm forum to be able to enter the channel of successful work, thereby substantially helping to improve the situation in Europe.

The Stockholm conference, as is well known, became a reality primarily thanks to the dogged and persistent efforts, above all, of the USSR and the other socialist community countries. The neutral and nonaligned countries of Europe interested in the rise of the policy of detente and its concrete reinforcement by detente in the military sphere made a positive contribution to its convocation. Today these participants in the Stockholm forum are displaying diplomatic persistence and advancing constructive initiatives, helping to resolve its chief task. As is known, this consists in the stage-by-stage implementation of specific effective actions which aim to develop progress in strengthening confidence and security and achieve disarmament. The delegations of the USSR and the other socialist countries and of the group of neutral and nonaligned states represented at the forum have already submitted important proposals to the plus side of the conference. They aim to express the duty of all states to refrain from the use or threat of force in relations with each other.

The new round of the conference's work is being launched on important groundwork: the Soviet Union's large-scale initiatives aimed at fundamentally improving the political climate in Europe are at the center of its participants' attention. I am speaking, above all, of the proposals which have elicited a very broad public response both here in the Swedish capital, and far from the Stockholm conference -- proposals to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and to conclude a treaty on the nonuse of military force.

As the leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out at the end of the previous conference session, the United States and other NATO countries failed both to hush up and to curtail the discussion of those proposals. They stand firmly on the agenda and are eliciting growing interest both at the conference itself and outside its walls.

On the other hand, and this can be seen particularly well when comparing the starting positions around the forum table, the assertions of representatives from certain NATO countries that security can be ensured by piling up arms mountains and by threatening to use nuclear weapons or military force sound dangerous and groundless. Such stereotyped thinking has led to tragedies in the past, the USSR's representative pointed out in Stockholm. In the nuclear age it can led to irretrievable catastrophe.

The setting up of two working groups for a concrete examination of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe on equal terms in both the political and the military spheres also makes it possible now to embark on businesslike talks in Stockholm. Let us recall that the corresponding proposal was submitted on behalf of the neutral and nonaligned countries by Finland's representative.

The groups' work programs include a discussion of the Soviet initiatives, such as the proposals to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons, to conclude a treaty on the nonuse of military force, and others.

The Swedish, European, and world public as a whole was informed back on the eve of 1985 that the USSR and the other socialist countries represented at the Stockholm forum advocate holding the upcoming talks in these working groups in a constructive spirit and achieving substantial accords. "If the United States and the other NATO countries show a desire to seek an accord on the basis of equal rights and respect for the security interests of all the participant states," the Soviet side declared in Stockholm, "then the conference will be able to make a real contribution to strengthening confidence and lessening the threat of war."

The Soviet Union not only proposes but also itself sets an example in this direction, having unilaterally adopted a pledge back in 1982 renouncing first use of nuclear weapons. The realization of our country's proposals, such as cutting military expenditure, ridding Europe of chemical weapons, and creating nuclear-free zones in various regions of the continent, would also accord with the aims of the Stockholm conference.

The comprehensive approach of the USSR and the other socialist countries to resolving the conference's tasks consists precisely in the clear-cut linkage between large-scale steps of a political and international law nature and military-technical measures -- which makes it possible to achieve real and weighty results in Stockholm in the matter of strengthening European and international security.

The proposals of the group of neutral and nonaligned countries and their understanding of the need for a comprehensive approach to resolving the tasks facing the conference also have many points of contact with this clear and precise position.

The conference participants have received thousands of letters, appeals, and petitions demanding that they halt the world's slide toward nuclear catastrophe and secure detente and disarmament in Europe. The appeal of the Soviet space defence committee to the Stockholm forum participants elicited a broad response here. It stated, in particular: "The Soviet public expects the Stockholm conference to achieve weighty accords in the direction of removing the threat of nuclear war and establishing genuine trust among the participant countries founded on equal security."

It is now quite obvious that the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Geneva and the accord reached there to hold new talks on key problems of space and nuclear arms also have a bearing on the essence of the work of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe. Millions of people voice the hope that the Stockholm forum will be the diplomatic arena where political realism and the understanding of the need to pool the efforts of all states, both large and small in order to lower the level of military confrontation in Europe, return interstate relations to the channel of detente, create an atmosphere of international confidence and constructive cooperation, and resolve disputes by means of honest and equitable talks, will prevail.

There are still many difficulties on the road to progress in Stockholm. Much will depend on whether all its participants without exception -- above all, Washington and its NATO allies -- display the necessary political will and the desire to really help the Stockholm conference to play a useful role in achieving these noble aims.

LOMEYKO BRIEFING ON GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED

PM301025 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center on 26 January at which V.B. Lomeyko, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Department, delivered a report on the USSR-U.S. accord regarding the time and place for the start of talks on nuclear and space armaments.

Answering journalists' questions, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the Soviet delegation will be guided at the talks by the accord on the subject matter and aims of the talks reached at the meeting between A.A. Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR foreign minister, and U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz. As is known, this accord envisages that the talks will cover a range of questions concerning space and nuclear armaments -- strategic and medium-range -- and that all these questions will be examined and resolved together as interrelated issues.

The object of the talks will be to elaborate accords designed to prevent an arms race in space, halt it on earth, limit and reduce nuclear arms, and strengthen strategic stability.

The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that only strict observance of every part of the accord during the upcoming talks can ensure real progress toward stopping the arms race, removing the thret of nuclear war, and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons.

U.S. NOT PREPARED FOR 'SERIOUS' ARMS TALKS

LD291555 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1435 GMT 29 Jan 85

["The Arms Race in Space -- A Real Threat to Mankind" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Jan (TASS) -- TASS observer on military issues Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

Preparing for the Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear weapons which are due to begin in Geneva on 12 March, the U.S. Administration is at the same time continuing to conduct matters toward the creation of a large-scale antimissile defense with space-based elements. Trying to justify these actions, which conflict with one of the aims of the talks agreed upon in Geneva -- the prevention of an arms race in space -- to the public, Washington states that the implementation of the "strategic defense initiative" is going on and will go on within the framework of research and design work, and that this work bears no real threat of the practical development of an ABM system, as if to say that there is nothing to get excited about.

At the same time, in a rush of polemics with the skeptics who are casting doubt on the technical feasiblity of the administration's plans, the champions of "star wars" are revealing the true state of affairs in this sphere. An example of this is an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE written by Z. Brzezinski, R. Jastrow, and M. Kampelman. The aforementioned triad of authors, which paradoxical as it may be, includes the head of the U.S. delegation at the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. negotiations, directly states the reality and practical feasiblity of the "strategic defense initiative" and comes out in support of it.

The authors of the article assert that certain technical means for a wide-scale antimissile defense system already exist in the United States, and a "two-tier or two-stage" antimissile defense system "could even be deployed now." And what is more, it would only cost $60 billion. These two "tiers" would include artifical satellites with interceptor missiles on board, land-based interceptors, and satellites to observe and monitor "Soviet warheads."

The United States thus already has the basis for deploying a certain part of a wide-scale system of antimissile defense and is carrying out work at a strenuous rate to improve it further, and also to establish "exotic" (laser and beam weapons) and other elements of the future system.

All this once again convinces one that official Washington has thus hitherto not entered a realistic path of preparation for serious and effective talks. Evidently, certain U.S. circles in no way abandon space militarization, which is vicious and dangerous for the world. In connection with this, one is reminded of the numerous statements by advocates of this idea about the "inevitability" of war in space and the "necessity" for the United States to achieve superiority in space arms. "It is clear that the use of satellites for waging war is vitally important for all of us," L. Allen, then chief of staff of the Air Force, said in 1982. "Space is already a sphere of military actions," W. Ramsey, director of Air Force Satellite Systems Control, said in bellicose fashion in 1983. Military efforts in space "will help the United States regain its strategic superiority over the Soviet Union," said D. Graham, former head of the Pentagon's intelligence directorate.

It is completely clear that dreams of achieving superiority over the USSR are hopeless and that the Soviet Union will never allow the strategic balance of forces to be upset. But what do they think in Washington about the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. talks? Evidently, there are those in the U.S. capital who reckon on reiterating at these fundamentally new talks the variant involving NATO's notorious "dual decision," which provides for deploying new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe while at the same time holding talks with the Soviet Union.

All the world knows how sadly and dangerously that "experiment" ended for the stability of the situation in Europe. However, as is evident, the historical lesson has been of no use to Washington.

Evidently, they continue to think there that it could just be some "gentlemen's rules" for the deployment of weapons in outer space that might be worked out at the forthcoming talks, and they are not thinking about the need for the complete rejection of space militarization at all. It is especially striking that the head of the U.S. delegation at the forthcoming talks is acting as a "champion" of the idea of creating a large-scale antimissile defense system with space-based elements, and is participating in specific calculations of the necessary quantity of armed satellites and missiles in a militarized space.

One would like to hope nonetheless that ultimately understanding is restored in the U.S. leadership of the responsibility which the United States bears in connection with the future talks -- understanding of the fact that the problem of the non-militarization of space affects the vital interests of all mankind. Without a ban on the militarization of space, the talks on the problem of nuclear arms would be deprived of meaning and future. This stance of the Soviet Union was stated with utmost clarity and firmness in Andrey Gromyko's talks with Soviet political observers.

EUROMISSILES MAKE FOR PROBLEMS IN ARMS TALKS

PM291306 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Jan 85 Second Edition p 5

[Political observer Vladimir Katin article under the rubric "View of Events": "Echo of Geneva in Europe"]

[Text] The new U.S.-USSR talks which were recently given the go-ahead in Geneva will cover an extensive range of nuclear and space weapons problems. The theme of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe will figure actively in them. Incidentally, a loud reminder of them was recently provided by the terrible explosion that rocked the U.S. military base at Heilbronn. The Pershing II missile explosion at the base cost several human lives and rocked the whole of West Germany by graphically demonstrating the real threat posed to NATO countries by the U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles located on their territories.

"Such an incident could serve as the cause of a nuclear war breaking out," retired U.S. Admiral G. Larocque stated knowledgeably. In his opinion, the incident at the U.S. military base in the FRG does not rule out the possibility of a Pershing being accidentally launched because of a technical fault or human error. The target of these missiles is well known, so the consequences could really be very tragic. Thus, the missile explosion at the Heilbronn base was a reminder that the security of the NATO countries where there are U.S. nuclear weapons is becoming less reliable and more vulnerable.

At the same time, on the eve of the forthcoming new USSR-U.S. talks, the planned shipments of U.S. missiles to West Europe cannot fail to complicate both the situation on the continent and the very atmosphere of the talks. Here is the opinion being expressed in our country on that score: If the United States continues to deploy its medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe the situation will be considerably complicated.

As A.A. Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR foreign minister, recently noted, by its siting of medium-range means in Europe the United States may call into question the new talks which are to begin in accordance with the accord reached in Geneva. Warning Washington about this, the Soviet Union expresses the hope that this circumstance will be taken into consideration over there.

Meanwhile, recently meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Martens, President Reagan impressed upon him that if Belgium accepts a consignment of U.S. nuclear missiles, the U.S. position at the talks with the USSR would be strengthened. As we can see, this already reflects two different approaches both to the nature of the talks and to medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe. In practice the United States continues to strive to ensure that there are more of these weapons, while the Soviet Union has come out with an initiative on freezing all nuclear means. In our view, the proposed moratorium would create the best conditions for peaceful and detailed talks. On the other hand it would be obviously difficult to conduct talks at a time when the U.S. nuclear arsenal in West Europe is being systematically replenished with more and more new nuclear-charged missiles. These conditions, in my opinion, cannot be categorized as favorable to the reaching of agreements, specifically on medium-range weapons.

The problem of British and French nuclear means is also inextricably bound up with the forthcoming talks on medium-range nuclear means. Statements made by U.S. officials on this problem attest that they have not budged from their previous position; this will undoubtedly be a serious encumbrance at the talks.

The Soviet concept of this question is as follows: Without posing the question of whether Britain and France should scrap their nuclear means, we firmly advocate that these means be counted and taken into the reckoning. It would be utterly unjustifiable if NATO received a supplement or bonus, as it were, in the form of British and French nuclear means. And, if British and French nuclear means are retained, U.S. nuclear means must be reduced by a corresponding amount. After all, as Comrade A.A. Gromyko said in his talk with political observers, they are a single company located on one side of the barricade.

That is the Soviet Union's attitude to the problem of the siting of U.S. medium-range nuclear means in Europe and to the question of its NATO allies' own nuclear means.

I would now like to dwell on the reaction in West European countries to the accord reached in Geneva regarding new Soviet-U.S. talks on questions of space and nuclear arms. The general feeling in West European capitals is a sigh of relief, universal approval, and cautious hope. Thus, the recent meeting between British Prime Minister Thatcher and FRG Chancellor Kohl noted the "hopeful prospects" for future talks. "We share a cautious optimism," they stated, and Kohl for his part stressed that both leaders had arrived at a single opinion on the need to "activate all political contacts at all levels" between East and West.

It is also worth noting the official Paris reaction expressed in a special government statement: "Anything that can promote a reduction in the tension in East-West relations and progress toward controlled arms reductions enjoys France's support."

Italian Prime Minister Craxi, positively assessing the results of the Geneva meeting, said that the desire of the USSR and the United States to examine the questions of space and nuclear arms within an overall and interrelated framework is the right approach. In his opinion, the opportunities now opening up must be a serious incentive for talks in an atmosphere of goodwill and responsibility.

It is this aspect -- the need for a serious and responsible approach to the future talks -- that is being stressed by political observers in the United States itself, who are calling on their government to do likewise. "Moscow believes," THE WASHINGTON POST writes, "that the United States must take a serious attitude to the commitments adopted in line with the Geneva accord, including those pertaining to the question of space weapons."

In my view, West Europe's cautious optimism is to be explained by the fact that the general public in these countries has already learned through bitter experience how frivolously and, alas, irresponsibly the United States behaved in the past during the previous talks which it wrecked. And no one is closing his eyes to the fact that the present situation in Europe in terms of military confrontation is of course no better than it was 2 years ago when the new U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles had not yet been brought in and deployed in the FRG, Britain, and Italy. Now this new and entirely real danger must also be taken into account. For us, after all, medium-range weapons are strategic weapons in terms of both their nature and power, since they can reach Soviet territory. Whereas our medium-range weapons -- the SS-20 missiles -- cannot reach U.S. territory.

Thus, exceptionally important talks with the United States are ahead and we are approaching them with complete responsibility. One of the main goals of the talks, as both sides have stated, is to entirely remove nuclear arms from weapons arsenals. This is a very important agreement which did not figure in previous joint statements.

Comrade A.A. Gromyko states in this regard: "It is necessary for each step by the two powers -- not only the Soviet Union but the United States too -- in questions concerning arms and disarmament to bring this goal closer..."

Removing nuclear weapons forever from military arsenals is undoubtedly not a simple goal since many such weapons have been accumulated on our planet and the concentration of them per square kilometer in Europe is the highest in the world. But it is all the more important actively and jointly to purge the continent of nuclear explosives, and this has been placed on the agenda of the future talks. These explosives are mainly U.S.-produced and brought into Europe by the United States. But this act in no way diminishes the responsibility of those governments that lightly granted their countries' territories for U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles, thereby turning them into targets for an inevitable retaliatory strike.

In this connection I would like to recall that the adamantine basis for conducting affairs and making progress on all questions to be discussed at the new talks -- including Euromissiles -- will continue to be our invariable position of equality and identical security. There is no other basis.

PERLE REMARKS ON SDI, GENEVA TALKS HIT

LD300320 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Vladimir Teplov commentary]

[Text] Here now is a commentary by Vladimir Teplov on the forthcoming new talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on space and nuclear weapons.

[Teplov] As you may know the talks will open in March. There is a good basis for the new Soviet-American talks [words indistinct] as a result of the meeting in Geneva between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and United States Secretary of State George Shultz. They agreed that the talks should cover the entire range of issues related to space and strategic and medium-range nuclear weapons. All these issues must be considered as related to each other. The objective of the talks is to work out effective agreements aimed at ending the arms race here on earth and preventing an arms race in space. They should lead to the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons and greater strategic stability. That is the essence of the agreement reached in Geneva and welcomed by all governments. The Soviet Union believes that its compliance with that agreement is the necessary condition for success of the forthcoming talks.

In the United States the agreement was welcomed by many politicians, public figures, and the general public. But some members of the administration, however, are trying now to undermine the Geneva agreement. Their pronouncements lead one to question the sincerity of Washington's proclaimed commitment to what has been agreed by Andrey Gromyko and Mr Shultz, and above all to a businesslike and purposeful discussion of the issue of preventing an arms race in space.

The statements of the Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Perle made inthe past few days are highly significant. He said that at the outset of the talks concerning space weapons the American delegation will be explaining to the Soviet side that plans for the development in the United States of a strategic defense system will allegedly improve world security. Well, it looks as though some people in Washington would rather lecture the Soviet Union on the dubious merits of an arms race in space than hold meaningful talks on preventing an arms race in space once and for all. The Geneva agreement doesn't provide for holding seminars or giving lectures.

It provides for holding meaningful talks on preventing a space weapons race. Richard Perle's claims that the forthcoming talks may bring an agreement on one separate issue -- say, strategic nuclear weapons -- even if there is a deadlock over the issue of space weapons, are also surprising. This rather looks like another attempt to evade business-like talks on preventing the militarization of space.

It seems the Pentagon cannot [words indistinct] for abandoning its plans for reaching military supremacy by means of space weapons and for carrying the arms race to space. But it's the aim of the forthcoming talks to prevent the arms race from being carried to an area where there is no race in weapons now and put an end to it on earth, rather than to legalize the space weapons race. There can be no agreement on nuclear weapons unless space weapons are banned, and that is one of the most important aspects of the Geneva agreement, which provides for considering and [words indistinct] the issues of nuclear and space weapons as related to each other.

USSR SCIENTIST CRITICZES U.S. SPACE ARMS PLANS

PM291301 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 85 First Edition p 4

[Article by A. Kokoshin, deputy chairman of the Committee of Soviet Scientists in Defense of Peace and Against the Nuclear Threat: "Space and Security"]

[Text] The question of preventing the militarization of outer space is of increasing concern to mankind. People living in different countries, on different continents, realize the danger the monstrous plans to take the arms race into space would entail for life on earth. "Indeed," Comrade K.U. Chernenko has noted, "the attempts by certain American circles to impose the 'star wars' era on mankind create a new, additional threat to peace. If U.S. militarist forces manage to gain the upper hand on this question, an irreversible situation will arise, fraught with the most pernicious consequences." The urgency of this problem is also emerging at international forums of the scientific public. The participants, including prominent scientists from the United States and other NATO countries, state authoritatively that the creation of space weapons, including antisatellite and ABM weapons, far from strengthening strategic stability and international security as the Pentagon strategists claim, will actually further weaken them.

The armed forces and armaments of the world's opposing sides now form a complex system whose components are both offensive and defensive types of weapons. The main criteria for this system's stability are the preservation of approximate equality and respect for the principle of identical security for the sides.

Washington, planning to create space arms, asserts that they will supposedly be defensive in nature. But, at the same time, it tries to conceal the fact that the emergence of the new space weapons will lead to a radical disruption of the existing balance of forces, even if it is really a question of defensive weapons.

Back in the late sixties and early seventies, when the USSR and the United States embarked on the discussion of the problem of strategic arms, they acknowledged that strategic offensive and defensive arms are organically connected. On this basis, in 1972 the Soviet Union and the United States concluded simultaneously the unlimited-duration Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Ssytems and the Interim Agreement on Certain Measures With Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (Salt I). Thus the two powers were proceeding on the basis that only mutual restraint in the ABM sphere will make it possible to advance along the path of offensive arms limitation and reduction.

But in recent years the United States has been making efforts to destroy and remove the obstacles on the path of the unrestrained arms race, for both offensive and defensive arms.

The criticism of American plans to create a large-scale ABM system -- in the course of which competent scientists are drawing the conclusion that it is impossible to create an absolutely reliable (which was what the Pentagon strategists laid claim to) ABM shield and putting forward insistent warnings that such a system will inevitably be seen by the other side as a component in first-strke systems directed against it -- had some influence on the nature of public debates in the United States. Being forced to reckon with scientifically substantiated criticism of the plans for the creation and deployment of space weapons, the Washington supporters of this system tried to revise their way of arguing. Acknowledging, now, in a number of cases, that space ABM weapons will not be an "absolutely impenetrable shield," they have started to emphasize that they will increase the "level of uncertainty" for the enemy and make his military planning and building more difficult. However, this "argument" does not stand up to serious criticism either. The American apologists of space weapons are rightly confronted with the objection that they are not taking account of the fact that an increase in uncertainty for one side inevitably leads to the same for the other side, and to the lessening of strategic stability in the world in general.

Of course, uncertainty is already inherent in the present-day strategic situation by virtue of the very nature of nuclear weapons. But an increase in that uncertainty would mean an increase in the existing danger of the outbreak of war, and nuclear war at that. Starting with the fact that the other side, in order to reduce the level of uncertainty being created for it, will, in the opinion of scientists, have to adopt measures to further develop its own strategic systems, which guarantees it the possibility of inflicting a retaliatory strike.

In this connection the scientists who oppose the transfer of the arms race into space note that the creation of space weapons, including ABM weapons, will inevitably lead to the emergence of systems for resisting those weapons, after which more weapons will appear to combat those systems... Basically this will mean a continual buildup of more and more new turns in the spiral of the arms race.

The fact that Washington intends to continue intensive scientific research work aimed at creating space weapons is also completely contrary to the logic of arms limitation and reduction and the improvement of the political atmosphere in Soviet-U.S. relations.

The desire of certain U.S. circles to make their "star wars" dream come true is also indicated by the fact of the top secret launch of the spaceship Discovery, whose entire flight program came from within the Pentagon walls.

Certain right-wing American theorists, like C. Gray and (K. Paine), are trying to create, so to speak, a theoretical basis for this policy, claiming that the existence of an ABM shield would, in their view, enable the United States to wage wars, including nuclear wars, and win.

The fact show that the versions of the space ABM system being developed in the United States as though they are designed by no means only to destroy satellites and strategic missiles after launch, but also as frist-strike weapons for the destruction of targets on the ground. The system envisaged by the notorious "High Frontier" project, in particular, is assessed in precisely this way.

In this connection a number of foreign specialists rightly note that the use of space strike weapons appears frankly unrealistic as far as the USSR and its allies are concerned, because the Warsaw Pact countries will without doubt be able to ensure the defense of their territories against space. But the space weapons being planned in the United States could be seen as a potential means of using military force against those states which are unable to create appropriate resistance and protection systems. The history of recent decades shows that American imperialism is prepared to use military force when it can count on not meeting with a powerful rebuff and where the United States is not threatened by a retaliatory strike. The public and the leaders of the developing states, and indeed of certain developed capitalist states, are becoming increasingly aware of this, and are coming out against American plans to create space weapons.

Since the Soviet Union achieved strategic parity with the United States, Washington has repeatedly attempted to wreck that parity and secure superiority, first and foremost through improving the quality and increasing the numbers of warheads on delivery vehicles for strategic nuclear weapons. In order to preserve equality and ensure that no illusions arose in the United States about the possibility of achieving superiority, the USSR was forced to adopt the necessary countermeasures. These were and are strictly weighed and measured, and are directed only at maintaining parity, not at gaining superiority. This includes the measures adopted by the USSR and its allies in response to the start of the siting of U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe. Thanks to the measures adopted by the Soviet Union, the nuclear equilibrium is restored, but at a higher level. Thus in recent years there has been a further increase in the number of the sides' nuclear warheads targeted against each other. The time available for a crucial decision in the event of a nuclear attack or of a nuclear situation unintentionally arising has been reduced steeply. Confidence between states has been undermined.

The creation of space armaments would act in the same direction.

Soviet-American strategic parity plays an important stabilizing role not only in USSR-U.S. mutual relations, but in the international situation in general. With the creation of space ABM weapons, it would be a question of a radical change in the established parameters of the strategic balance and stability.

As many public forums, including forums of the scientific public, indicate, and as debates at the UN General Assembly have shown, the fact that neither international security nor any one country's security can be ensured through the creation of more and more new weapons systems, least of all space weapons systems, is becoming widely recognized in the world community. The world community demonstrated its sharply negative attitude toward the plans for siting weapons in space which are entertained in the United States when, at the 39th UN General Assembly Session, it adopted a resolution calling for space to be excluded from the sphere of the arms race. It is noteworthy that the only country to abstain in the vote on this resolution was the United States, which thereby, once again, isolated itself.

There has been wide recognition in the world for the package of scientifically substantiated proposals on preventing nuclear war and on arms limitation and reduction presented in statements by K.U. Chernenko and the Soviet Government.

There is also increasing understanding among the world public of the USSR's desire to close new avenues of the arms race and its transfer to space, and at the same time (taking into account the existing equality and parity) to follow the path of the limitation and reduction of existing arms in such a way that strategic stability is not diminished and that equilibrium is preserved at any given moment, but always at a lower level. With a view to a constructive solution to all these problems in their totality, the Soviet Union put forward the profoundly considered concept of new talks on questions concerning space and nuclear arms, so as to resolve these questions as interrelated questions. As is known, the USSR and the United States have agreed that these talks will begin 12 March.

The Soviet Union's position is precise and clear. Our country consistently advocates working toward the strengthening of international security, preventing weapons from being placed in space, and banning the use of force in space or from space against the earth, and also from the earth against targets in space. Space strike armaments, based on whatever principles of operation and whatever basing modes, must not be created, tested, or deployed either for use in space, or for use from space against targets on earth, in the air, or at sea. Systems of this kind that have already been created must be destroyed. Given a radical solution to the problem of preventing the arms race in space, the way would be open for a substantial reduction, on a reciprocal basis, in the level of nuclear confrontation, leading eventually to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. With, of course, strict observance of the principle of equality and identical security.

ANATOLIY GROMYKO SPEAKS IN SWEDEN ON ARMS STANCE

LD291823 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Stockholm January 29 TASS -- The director of the Institute of African Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Anatoliy Gromyko stayed on a visit in Sweden from January 22 to 29 at the invitation of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

He delivered a report and lectures to representatives of Swedish scientific and public circles, the press, radio and televison.

At SIPRI Anatoliy Gromyko outlined the position of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries on questions of curbing the arms race, first of all the nuclear arms race, of averting the threat of a world of thermonuclear catastrophe and stressed that the USSR's proposals were directed at the attainment of these aims.

In his lecture at the Foreign Policy Institute Anatoliy Gromyko devoted much attention to the forthcoming 40th anniversary of victory over fascist Germany. The lessons of the Second World War, during which the Soviet Union and the United States were allies fighting a common enemy, show that war with the use of nuclear arms must be prevented.

Anatoliy Gromyko's appearance at the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies in Uppsala was devoted to the Soviet Union's relations with countries of the African Continent which are based on principles of mutual respect, equality and expansion of cooperation in various fields.

LATE REPORT: AFANASYEV ON GENEVA TALKS, CHERNENKO

AU301055 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 29 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Peter Martos report]

[Text] Vienna -- The Soviet Union regards as unlikely a breakthrough at the disarmament talks with the United States, which will open in Geneva on 12 March. In the opinion of PRAVDA chief editor Viktor Afanasyev, the new dialogue could produce a change, but everything depends on Washington's good will: The Kremlin leadership "cherishes no great illusions." In the course of an interview with DIE PRESSE, Afanasyev time and again stresses his doubts about the United States' readiness.

The Soviet Union derives its strategy for the negotiations from the "good and promising document" agreed upon by Foreign Minister Gromyko and Secretary of State Shultz. There, the chief editor of the CPSU organ, who is participating in the "Third Vienna Dialogue" on disarmament, points out, the three sectors -- space, strategic arms, and intermediate missiles -- were defined as a complex. "All will be well if both sides adhere to this document." Moscow is ready for this -- "however, we are not convinced of the United States' readiness."

The 62-year-old Afanasyev, who as a Central Committee member belongs to the enlarged Kremlin leadership, tries to justify this skepticism: Pratical actions and statements on the U.S. part do not fit into the overall framework, he says. He points in this context to an article written by Max Kampelman, leader of the U.S. delegation to Geneva, and quotes: "There exist great doubts about the possibility of quick progress in the near future." According to the PRAVDA chief editor, such statements hardly justify an optimistic attitude toward the negotiations.

In the interview with DIE PRESSE, Afanasyev broaches in detail the U.S. research activities in the field of a "strategic defense initiative," which in the Kremlin's view exclude any compromise: In his view the arms race in space would be much more dangerous than the arms race on earth because it would be very difficult to control. The construction of a joint defense shield in space would make -- and this the Moscow top offical concedes -- land-based nuclear weapons ineffective. "But why do we not renounce the militarization of space and freeze armaments?"

The conversation with Afanasyev proceeds throughout on three different levels: Each factual argument is followed by an appeal for cooperation and by vehement criticism of the United States. Thus, he says with respect to the problem of a joint defense shield, that the Soyuz-Apollo project proved that the superpowers can cooperate peacefully. "But we do not desire collaboration on throwing billions to the wind."

The third part of any answer turns out to be the longest. Afanasyev suggests that the United States strives for superiority over the Soviet Union: "In developing new technologies we are always following the United States; it was not us who invented the atomic bomb and who built multiple warheads and nuclear submarines. [second clause as published] The PRAVDA chief editor formulates his sharpest criticism as follows: "From the class point of view Reagan is an anticommunist and his goal is world domination." Therefore, there is a danger that Washington only wants to use the Geneva negotiations as a "smokescreen to calm the American people and to bind the allies to itself."

Despite all its protestations about a readiness for talks, the Soviet Union is prepared for a continuation of the arms race. "We possess sufficient forces [Kraefte], we can forgo everything. If necessary we will eat only once a day."

The conversation arrives at the second part which Afanasyev, in addition to the "preservation of peace," terms the most important task of his newspaper: improving living conditions in the Soviet Union. In doing so the chief editor perceives a clear interconnection. On the one hand there is no development without peace; on the other, the arms race swallows oodles of money that could be invested in the economy. "We would already be living much better without the missiles, but are compelled by the United States to defend ourselves."

But the PRAVDA chief editor must view developments optimistically. Therefore, he lists the efforts to improve the economic mechanism. First of all, early this year a vast reform experiment, which to date had involved 5 ministries, was expanded to 21 ministries. "We are doing a great deal quantitatively, but the quality is missing." At the same time, the drive to tighten discipline and to stop corruption, initiated by Yuriy Andropov, is being continued.

The doctor of philosophy -- "journalism is a party assignment but I continue my scientific work" -- speaks very frankly about the decision-making mechanism in the Kremlin. It is true that party and state head Konstantin Chernenko has not yet completely recovered. "But he remains at the helm." He, Afanasyev, talked to the general secretary 2 weeks ago and time and agair staff workers are seeing the chief -- "I think that in February he will resume his full share of leadership."

Nor does Afanasyev have any inhibitions in formulating some sort of a hierarchy within the leadership. In the party Mikhail Gorbachev and Grigoriy Romanov have been singled out of the collective of the nine Central Committee secretaries. The sessions of this board are, as a rule, directed by one of these two. On a state level Afanasyev lists four more Politburo members who -- in that order -- belong to the inner leadership circle: Premier Nikolay Tikhonov, Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko; Vitaliy Vorotnikov, head of the RSFSR government; and Geydar Aliyev, who, together with Gromyko, is first deputy premier. "But, as a matter of principle, collegiality prevails with us," he states in conclusion.

DEMCHENKO ON ANTIWAR MOVEMENT, NICARAGUA, MIDEAST

PM291243 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 85 First Edition p 4

[Pavel Demchenko "International Review"]

[Text] Key Problem of Today

As the Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear armaments draw closer, the peace-loving forces in many countries are becoming increasingly active. Rallies, demonstrations, and petitions are being organized calling for an end to the nuclear threat.

It is not hard to understand people's feelings: The acute tension that has emerged in international affairs is giving rise to increasing concern, and it is no secret that Soviet-U.S. relations greatly determine the general world political climate. This concern is all the more justified when it is a question of whether the arms race imposed by the aggressive forces will continue or whether real moves will be made toward ending the buildup of nuclear arsenals.

This was expressed by delegates to the All-Union Conference of Peace Supporters held in Moscow on 23 January, attended by representatives from all the union and autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts of our great country. Comrade K.U. Chernenko's message to the conference noted: "There is now no task more important than preventing a nuclear war. A start to the successful solution of this task would be made by preventing an arms race in space and at the same time taking the path of radical reductions in nuclear armaments as far as their complete elimination.

"Guided by this, the Soviet Union has put forward an initiative to begin space and nuclear arms talks with the United States. We intend to conduct them in a businesslike and constructive way. We hope that the United States will adopt an honest and responsible approach."

These words produced a great response abroad and are viewed by the public as yet another manifestation of the Soviet Union's concern to improve the international situation and as an encouraging boost to the peace campaigners.

It must be pointed out that the past week's events have again shown the groundlessness of the claims that the mass antiwar movement in the West has recently lost impetus and has even gone into "decline." Reports from Washington, for example, prove that this is not so. While the celebrations surrounding R. Reagan's inauguration for a second term as President were being held at the Capitol on Monday, columns of people numbering many thousands were gathering on the main streets in the center of the U.S. capital. "The capital has been transformed from a center of celebration into a center of protest and demonstrations," an NBC-TV commentator reported. "Jobs not bombs!", one slogan ran. "We demand peace and social justice!" And "Stop the interference in Nicaragua's affairs!", were inscribed on other banners.

Another thesis spread by reactionary propaganda that the fate of detente depends exclusively on the great powers and, in the main, on the United States and the USSR is also very far from the truth. The conclusion they draw is this: Public action, particularly in the smaller countries, is pointless, and the public should therefore simply wait and watch passively to see how events develop. Clearly, the propagation of these fatalist "theories" can only play into the hands of the imperialist circles who flout the peoples' will.

The struggle for peace is a matter for each and every one of us, whichever part of the world we inhabit.

Reports reaching PRAVDA's editorial office this week show that actions against the nuclear threat are taking place in many countries and that specific measures to counter it are being adopted.

A demonstration demanding that U.S. cruise missiles be removed from Britain was held near the Greenham Common air base where 32 of these missiles have already been deployed. The Norwegian mass movement "No to Nuclear Weapons" appealed to the population to refuse to pay that part of their taxes being used for military needs. As their leaflets point out, the money spent in the world on arms in 1 day alone could save the lives of 17 million starving children. The New Zealand Government has confirmed its decision not to let warships carrying nuclear weapons enter its ports.

According to foreign news agency reports, Washington has failed to coerce the Belgian Government which, under public pressure, is in no hurry to grant the Pentagon permission to introduce 48 cruise missiles into the country. After meeting with Reagan in Washington, Belgian Prime Minister W. Martens told journalists that the installation of the missiles will not begin in March, as the NATO schedule had envisaged. His government may agree to their siting by 1987 unless a Soviet-U.S. arms control agreement has been reached by that time.

THE WASHINGTON POST carried an editorial whose author could not conceal his anger at such conduct by America's European allies. "It is hard not to be angry with the Belgians and the Dutch, who are behaving like the Belgians, only worse," he wrote. "These two countries are refusing to meet their official commitment to NATO regarding the siting on their territory of the U.S. missiles now being deployed in Europe."

As for Washington's actions, it must be stated with regret that even now, on the eve of the Soviet-U.S. talks, it is continuing its military preparations as quickly as ever. For example, the reusable spacecraft Discovery has just been launched with a program geared exclusively to military goals. U.S. newspapers report that a top-secret satellite has been put into orbit from the spacecraft. The SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE believes that this "marks the beginning of a new era in espionage" and is closely bound up with the White House's intention to transfer the arms race into space.

Storm Clouds Over Nicaragua

The military pressure on Nicaragua has intensified again, giving a number of foreign observers good reason to believe that direct intervention in this country is possible in the very near future.

There has been more than enough justification for such alarming forecasts recently. For example, let us begin with the fact that Washington has blocked virtually all diplomatic channels for talks on normalizing the situation in Central America: It has broken off the U.S.-Nicaraguan dialogue, which had been in progress since last summer in the Mexican city of Manzanillo, and has declared a boycott of the International Court in The Hague where the Nicaraguan Government lodged a complaint about Washington's continuing support for the counterrevolutionary forces.

Officially, the dialogue has been broken off because it might hinder the multilateral consultations the Contadora Group (consisting of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela) is conducting. However, Washington has also undermined this group's activity. On the latter's initiative a conference of Central American countries was to have been held in mid-February to examine a "Peace Act" which was designed to achieve a normalization of the situation in the region with no outside interference. But now El Salvador, which is obedient to Washington, has been followed by Honduras and Costa Rica in stating that it will not participate in the conference.

What is more, this happened immediately after visits to those countries and to Panama and Guatemala by H. Shlaudeman, the U.S. President's special representative in Central America, and R. McFarlane, the president's national security adviser. (At the same time Honduras was also being visited by U.S. Vice President G. Bush.)

The connection between all these events is clear. Many commentators view them this way, too. "Washington is hardening its line toward Managua," the Parisian newspaper Le MONDE writes. LE MATIN, also of France, is even more categorical in its belief that Washington is wielding the big stick." The same line is taken by an article in THE WASHINGTON POST that speaks of the growing number of U.S. mercenaries active in Nicaragua. The administration is "keeping secret" the fact of the mercenaries' presence, but the author of the article has learned of the existence of "brigades numbering 2,000-3,000 Americans who are ready to be sent into combat."

An ominous fact, but the conclusion drawn by an ABC-TV commentator is possibly even graver. Here is what he said: "Twice in his first presidential term Reagan resorted to military force to achieve his foreign policy goals -- in Beirut, which became a military catastrophe, and in Grenada. Administration spokesmen assert that during the second term Reagan will use military strength more often." Where, precisely? Against Nicaragua, apparently. "The administration is hardening its line toward this country. Many commentators believe that matters will reach the point of the direct use of military force."

It is common knowledge that U.S. ruling circles hate the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua, just as it is well known that all attempts to destroy it from within have failed. The recent presidential elections showed that the Nicaraguan people support their authorities. Now more thunder clouds are gathering over this little country with a population of under 3 million. Announcing this to his people, President D. Ortega called on the United States to return to the negotiating table and confirmed his country's readiness to struggle to restore peace in Central America.

In the Near East

Reports about turbulent events continued to arrive throughout the week from the Near East, especially from Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq border -- a part of the world that has known neither peace nor respite for many years.

Several explosions have recently occurred in the Lebanese capital and in the city of Sidon, resulting in death and injury. These outrages have been seen in political circles as attempts to aggravate the situation in the country on the eve of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the part of southern Lebanon occupied in 1982. The Israelis want to carry out this withdrawal in such a way as to maintain as much control over the situation as possible and avoid making any commitments.

Indeed one aspect of this may appear paradoxical at first sight. First the Israeli representatives wrecked the talks being held with the Lebanese in Al-Naqurah, which were intended to seek the occupying forces' withdrawal from the country, only for Tel Aviv to subsequently announce that withdrawal. When the Lebanese, however, asked for the details of the decision, the Israel's would not discuss it with them.

One might think that one action contradicts the other here, that there is a certain logical inconsistency. However, the aggressor has his own mode of behavior. While Israel is being forced to begin pulling back from the occupied regions of Lebanon as a result of pressure from the resistance movement and protests from within Israel itself, confronted with worsening economic conditions, it would not want to sign any documents that would impose any particular schedule or conditions on it.

In practice this means that we do not know when the occupiers will complete their pull-back. Moreover, they will be the ones to determine whom the liberated territory will be handed over to -- whether to government troops or to detachments obedient to the Israelis. Tel Aviv thus intends to exploit the religious and political heterogeneousness of south Lebanon for its own ends, where the disagreements among various groups and communities are as acute as ever. Finally, and this is perhaps the most important point, Israel retains the self-proclaimed "right" to return if need be.

As a Lebanese Communist Party statement points out, "Israel is seeking to impose the conditions it failed to obtain at Al-Naqurah and is threatening to provoke internecine clashes in the regions from which the occupying forces plan to pull back."

In short, the ruling circles in Israel have no intention at all of using the withdrawal of their troops to normalize the situation even in this region, or to establish relations with a neighboring state. They are maintaining tension, hatred, and hostility there as grounds for further aggression.

Reports of renewed fighting have arrived from the Iran-Iraq front, where hostilities have continued unabated for a total of almost 4 and 1/2 years. It is mainly occurring along the Iran-Iraq border and in the northern sector of the Persian Gulf. Iraq has stepped up its air activity. Iran is carrying out artillery shelling and night raids against enemy positions. Although neither side can gain the upper hand, it is proving impossible to reconcile them or bring them to the negotiating table.

Another attempt has now been made in this direction. A session of an inter-Arab commission set up last March to intensify international efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq conflict has been held. As C. Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, has stated, additional efforts will be made aimed at ensuring the speediest cessation of the war and a peaceful settlement. Commission members will be visiting a number of countries to draw the attention of the peoples and governments to the dangerous consequences of the prolongation of a conflict creating a threat to the security not only of the region but the whole world.

It has to be said that this is one of many recent attempts to achieve a cease-fire. They have foundered on the prior conditions for talks put forward by Iran, which include, in particular, a demand for the replacement of the regime in Baghdad. One would like to hope that that the new move made by the inter-Arab commission and the corresponding UN appeal to the warring sides will at long last promote a peaceful solution of this protracted conflict.

The Soviet Union believes that the Arab-Israeli and Iran-Iraq conflicts can and must be settled by political means in the light of all sides' interests and is acting accordingly. This promotes both the peaceful development of the peoples of this part of the world and the overall improvement of the international situation.

PLANNED ALTERNATIVE YOUTH FESTIVAL CRITICIZED

LD300944 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS -- TASS commentator Mikhail Abelev writes: Attempts by reactionary quarters in the West to hamper the Moscow Youth Festival, which is to take place from July 27 to August 3, this year, have drawn mounting protests all over the world.

Finding themselves unable to "depoliticize" the contents of the programs and events of the International Youth Year, Western countries have noticeably stepped up attempts to use it to undermine the international democratic youth movement.

A special zeal in these efforts in being shown by the U.S. Administration, which is exemplified by the planned convocation of a conference of young people from countries of the so-called "free world" in Jamaica under the international youth year's motto "Participation, Development, Peace". It is planned to adopt at that "conference" a declaration stressing "allegiance to the ideals of democracy" in a corresponding interpretation of Washington and found a new international youth organization that would involve also Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Rude pressure is being exerted on many youth organizations (especially in West European countries) in a bid to make them renounce participation in the Moscow festival and prod them into attending the Jamaica conference instead.

On Washington's instigation, that "conference" has been conceived as an alternative to the Moscow festival. One's attention is called to the fact that the sordid idea is being pushed by means of methods typical of the "free world". Let us compare these facts: The first sitting of the International Preparatory Committee of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students (on February 15, 1984) was attended by delegates from 186 international, regional and national youth and student organizations from 92 countries. The other meetings concerned with preparations for the Moscow forum have been no less representative.

By contrast, there have been no representative consultative meetings held in the framework of preparations for the so-called "alternative" conference. The organizers of that provocative event have decided without asking anybody's opinion who should be invited to attend that conference and who should be denied this dubious honor.

The appeal adopted at the first sitting of the International Preparatory Committee of the Moscow festival said, in particular, that the festival will be a representative forum which will discuss the pressing problems of the times and work out joint actions with a view to ensuring a peaceful future to the younger generation. This platform is understandable to the progressively-minded young people of the world and taken by them near to their hearts.

What acceptable "alternative" to this can be offered by the organizers of the "youth conference of the free world"? There is no such alternative. Despite all the differences in their ideologies and political views, the young people of the world are united by the common aim, that of defending peace and their vital rights and future. The younger generation of today, which can by right be called an anti-war generation, realizes perfectly well that the destinies of millions of people, the future of mankind now depend like never before on the resolution of the problems of war and peace.

Attempts to split the youth movement have been made by right-wing reactionary forces also before. They have been rejected. Nothing will come of such attempts by the present-day provocateurs either. The reaction of the world's youth to their actions shows: The motto of the Moscow festival "Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship" is the motto of all progressive young people of the world.

WEINBERGER STATEMENTS ON BUDGET ISSUE CRITICIZED

LD201803 Moscow TASS in English 1709 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] New York January 29 TASS -- The appearance of the United States Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on American television became a new stage in the massive campaign to influence the legislators and the public in the United States in order to secure their support for a new multi-billion increase of allocations for the Pentagon in the 1986 fiscal year. The head of the Pentagon tried hard to scare Americans with the "Soviet military threat" and to prove the unprovable: that prior to the Reagan administration the only thing that the United States supposedly was engaged in an unrestricted buildup of its military might. [sentence as received]

Weinberger also resorted to open blackmail of those members of Congress who voice alarm at the unchecked growth of military spending which increases the deficit of the federal budget. The minister said that those who want a reduction of the Pentagon's budget want to undermine the country's defences. At the same time he contended that the deficit, which threatens to exceed 210 billion dollars during the present fiscal year, is a result not of spending on militaristic programmes but of "overspending" on domestic programmes, first of all in the social field.

The democratic majority leader in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress James Wright described these contentions as absurd. He noted that Weinberger's threats against those who want to moderate the Pentagon's appetites and thereby help reduce the budget deficit smack of the "era of McCarthyism". The congressman stressed that the Pentagon chief has flagrantly distorted facts in his statements. In his turn, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance Robert Packwood directly stated that all of Congress's efforts to deal with the federal budget deficit were wrecked by the administration's refusal to cut the Pentagon's spending.

REAGAN: SOCIAL PROGRAMS TARGET OF BUDGET CUTS

LD300810 Moscow TASS in English 0802 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Washington January 30 TASS -- President Reagan has admitted that huge federal budget deficits in the USA today constitute one of the main problems. Speaking to delegates of the congress of the National Association of Home Builders at their congress in Houston, he stressed that his chief goal during the second term would be an attempt to cure the country of that ill. Reagan made it clear, however, that he would try to do so primarily by cutting back federal spending on social and economic programmes. In other words, the administration would follow its old course of slashing funds on social aid and other social security programmes, which are all but the only source of subsistence for millions of dispossessed, elderly and unemployed Americans.

MOSCOW EXAMINES INCREASED U.S. MILITARY EXPENDITURES

LD300445 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1749 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Igor Charikov commentary from the "International Diary" program presented by Boris Andrianov]

[Text] According to reports from Washington, the White House is engaged intensively in working on Congress and the U.S. business world in an attempt to enlist their unconditional support for the Reagan administration's budget policy.

The U.S. President has organized a meeting with the leading representatives of a number of the country's major financial and economic organizations and also with influential congressmen and Republican senators. They were introduced to the main provisions of the draft federal budget. Next week it will be officially presented to the Congress.

Well, so far as a whole the draft is being kept secret. Information has nevertheless filtered through to the press to the effect that the Washington administration is planning to build up expenditures on the arms race and simultaneously to reduce appropriations for the most important socioeconomic programs, with many of them simply to be liquidated. Such a course is arousing more and more opposition in Congress. The administration is feeling it even in its Republican camp. So, the White House decided to take out some insurance before the debates on the draft budget begin in the Capitol. This report from Washington is commented upon by my colleague Igor Charikov:

[Charikov] The conference President Reagan held in the White House reminds one of a staff meeting before a big offensive operation. It was no accident that big business representatives were invited to the White House and that they came from thse sectors of industry most involved in the production of all kinds of armaments, especially nuclear missile armaments. For it is they who, more than others, are interested in having the next budget, just as the previous one, shower them with a golden rain of orders. And it is they, their money, and their connections that helped Ronald Reagan get elected for a second term and ensured the Republican Party of a majority in the Senate and a sufficient number of seats in the House of Representatives. The meeting in the White House can be considered the final stage of a large-scale campaign to prepare U.S. public opinion for the fact that the country's military budget will once again be increased.

Preparations have been conducted in two directions: The first direction is a traditional one that is somewhat obsolete and that in a certain sense has discredited itself. It consists in deliberately intimidating the public with an imaginary Soviet threat, with the idea that the United States is lagging behind in defense, and so on. The second direction is an attempt to pacify the opponents of an increase in military expenditures by symbolically reducing it. Quite a fuss was made by the American press in connection with an intended reduction of over 8 percent in the draft for the gigantic military budget. This step was presented almost as a peacemaking act on the part of the administration. But in point of fact, it also had the aim of misleading public opinion.

Actually this symbolic reduction was computed by tricksters in the Defense Department. The truth is that there is no reduction at all, and there cannot be one. It is sufficient to look at the total amount of the federal budget: It amounts to $314 billion -- that is, $15 billion in excess of the current fiscal year's budget. This increase is taking place exclusively through military items. The main portion of the military expenditures continues to be taken up by the program for producing nuclear missile armaments intended for delivering a first strike: $25 billion has been allocated for the MX nuclear missile system, $21 billion for the Trident submarine missile system, and $18 billion for B-1-type bombers.

In administration circles and in the congressional lobbies it is already being said that the new budget will provoke sharp criticism. This was related recently in particular by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan.

Well, evidently they have grounds for such misgivings. Note that each year the U.S. budget increases, and each year the press calls it unprecedented; $314 billion is indeed an unprecedented amount. But it does not provide the $34 billion which was initially proposed to be allocated for medicare, for creating jobs for juveniles, and for housing construction within the framework of aid to cities. Imagine what huge funds would be released if military expenditures were freed up: One bomber costs as much as the annual wages of 250,000 teachers, or the cost of building and equipping 75 hospitals with 100 beds each.

As much money is spent on the production of one tank as is necessary to operate schools in which 30,000 children are learning. I leave aside the fact that a reduction of expenditures on arms production would release funds that would be far better used to help the peoples of the developing countries. Appropriations for the MX missile program in 1983 would cover the import of wheat by African countries for an entire year. The World Health Organization spent $83 million on wiping out smallpox. This is exactly the cost of one strategic bomber. These are fairly convincing statistics, aren't they?

Understanding the full disastrous and destructive force of the arms race, the Soviet Union has repeatedly called upon the United States and its NATO allies not to increase military budgets, to work toward their reduction, and to switch funds to the production of material boons for their people and for aiding the peoples of developing states.

U.S. REPORTEDLY TO FORM 'ARMY SPACE COMMAND'

LD292057 Moscow TASS in English 1906 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] New York January 29 TASS -- The Pentagon is considering the establishment of an Army Space Command, the magazine AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY reports. According to the weekly, the Department of the Army intends to use on its own military satellites for communication and intelligence gathering and also plans to develop new-generation spy satellites. Reusable spaceships will put those satellites into orbits from a new launching site at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, which will be put into service already this year.

This establishment of the Army Space Command is fresh proof that the Pentagon is putting together a command and staff structure to back up operations in space. Late last year Washington announced the establishment of a Joint Space Command of the U.S. Armed Forces reporting immediately to Defense Secretary Weinberger and to the joint chiefs of staff. It will integrate the operational functions of the Air Force and Navy space commands set up earlier. The joint space command concerns itself with supervision and control of military satellites, the utilization of laser and other space weapons which are now being developed as well as reusable spaceships. These programmes were graphically illustrated by the mission of the Discovery spaceship the other day, which took place in utmost secrecy under the supervision of the Department of Defence. The U.S. press views that mission as proof of the further subordination of the "space shuttle" programme to the Pentagon.

U.S. CONDITIONING PUBLIC TO ACCEPT SPACE ARMS

LD291414 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The American space shuttle Discovery has completed its fully military mission that was kept secret. According to press reports the space shuttle has placed an advanced spy satellite into a stationary orbit to eavesdrop on Soviet communications. All communications between the crew and ground control were blacked out to the public. Writing about the Discovery's mission, newsmen engage in guesswork. Asked whether the launching of the surveillance satellite, dubbed "the big ear," was the sole objective, their stories abound in such words as "apparently," "reportedly," "most probably," and others reflecting a good deal of uncertainty. On the other hand, the authorities say that there was nothing unusual about the Discovery's mission because launching surveillance satellites is an accepted practice.

There appears to be an obvious contradiction between the nature of the flight, described as routine, and the unprecedented atmosphere surrounding it. Yes, the details of the flight were kept secret, but this did not stop the publicity. Looking for explanations, some people in the American media suggest that information leaks about the flight (?have) been organized to attract as much attention to it as possible. The controversy (?and) all the debates that followed were needed to drive home one message, namely the United States has reached such a level of technological development that it is already able to use it for military purposes.

Today the space shuttle can launch military satellites, test mini motors for them, and conduct other secret experiments. Tomorrow it will do other things: blind enemy satellites, knock them out of orbit, and so on. The public at home and abroad is being conditioned to the idea that there is nothing wrong with using space in such a way, that the plans to build exotic space weapons are not that fantastic, as some believe, and that, in general, all this is very normal and sane.

When, years ago, NASA came out with the space shuttle program, one-third of all future flights had been reserved by the military. Then it became known that, without funds from the military, the program could never get off the ground, and now nobody even pretends to conceal the military aspects of this program. If somebody else was doing all that, not the United States, it would be described as a threat, military expansion, proof of adventurism, striving for superiority, and the like. But since the program is carried out by America, it is modestly called a scientific achievement. The arms race is an endless chain of such achievements, introduced by the United States: the A-bomb, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines, MIRV's, and the long-range cruise missile, to mention but a few.

U.S. MILITARY 'SPECIALISTS' ARRIVE IN BEIJING

LD282004 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 28 Jan 85

[From the "World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] A delegation of U.S. military specialists has arrived in Beijing headed by the assistant secretary of the U.S. Navy. During this visit, as foreign observers note, a discussion will be held on the possibility of China purchasing U.S. naval weapons systems and also of U.S. warships calling at Chinese ports. Two weeks ago, during a visit to China by General Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, THE WASHINGTON POST wrote that both sides had agreed on the sale of U.S. naval equipment to China amounting to several million dollars. According to reports in the Washington press, Beijing is to allow three U.S. destroyers to call at the port of Shanghai in April this year. However, these reports were later denied in both Beijing and Washington. At the same time, it was stated that the question of U.S. warships visiting Chinese ports was on the agenda.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS DEPARTURE OF PRC ENVOY

PM301051 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jan 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS "Diary" report]

[Text] Yang Shouzheng, PRC ambassador to the USSR, left Moscow 22 January.

JAPANESE PROTEST ARRIVAL OF U.S. SUBMARINE

LD291546 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS -- TASS commentator Aleksey Popov writes:

The American submarine La Jolla, with Tomahawk cruise missiles on board, has entered the Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan. This was reported today by the Japanese newspaper ASAHI. The newspaper says that in this case there is practically no doubt about the presence of nuclear weapons on board.

ASAHI says that before visiting Japan the submarine stayed at the San Diego Naval Base in California where American ships are being equipped with facilities for launching Tomahawk missiles. Moreover, the newspaper says, quoting prestigious military specialists, the character of combat missions which are usually set before submarines of this class makes it clear that the submarine has nuclear cruise missiles on board.

The present visit by La Jolla shows the Pentagon's total disregard for Japan's proclaimed three non-nuclear principles. These principles have long been trampled underfoot by the USA which has let its nuclear-armed surface ships and submarines make systematic calls at Japanese ports. What is more, this is being done with the tacit consent of the Japanese authorities. Thus the uptodate nuclear aircraft-carrier Carl Vinson has visited the port twice lately. Last year Japanese ports were visited by 23 American atomic submarines from among those which have been equipped with nuclear cruise missiles since last June. The Pentagon is turning Okinawa, one of the Japanese isles, into a base for its strategic B-52 bombers, which are also being equipped with nuclear cruise missiles.

The actions of the Pentagon and the Japanese authorities cooperating with it have touched off protests among the Japanese public which has not forgotten about the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These actions also cause concern among the peoples of the Asian-Pacific region. The liaison centre of the "No to Tomahawks" national movement sent today a telegram to U.S. President Ronald Reagan. This mass peace organisation says in its message that the visit to Yukosuka by an American atomic submarine with nuclear cruise missiles on board is a challenge to the Japanese people who demand complete elimination of all mass-destruction weapons. Simultaneously, in its message to Prime Minister Nakasone, the organisation stresses that the government's refusal to press for Washington's guarantee of respect for Japan's three non-nuclear principles contradicts the Japanese parliament's resolution calling for a ban on nuclear weapons.

Will Washington and Tokyo heed, at long last, these just demands of the people of Japan and other peoples of the region? So far, Washington and Tokyo officials continue asserting that such actions are being taken under the American-Japanese "security treaty" and allegedly pose no threat to anyone. Furthermore, Tokyo, in order to calm the public, tried more than once to deny that there were any American nuclear weapons on Japanese soil. But the present visit of La Jolla to Yokosuka points to the contrary: Japan is being increasingly drawn into Washington's global aggressive strategy and is becoming the Pentagon's nuclear place d'armes with all the dangerous consequences resulting therefrom.

DPRK'S KIM YONG-NAM STOPS OVER IN MOSCOW

PM291221 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Stopover in Moscow"]

[Text] Kim Yong-nam, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister of the DPRK, stopped over in Moscow on his way to and from Egypt and the SFRY.

At the airport Kim Yong-nam was met and seen off by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister M.S. Kapitsa, Kwon Hui-kyong, DPRK ambassador to the USSR, and other officials.

DPRK DELEGATE DENOUNCES 'TEAM SPIRIT-85'

LD281224 Moscow TASS in English 1141 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 TASS -- The chief delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the military commission on armistice in Korea has sharply criticised the forthcoming American-South Korean military exercise, Team Spirit-85. He described it as a dangerous provocation against the cause of peace in the Korean peninsula, creating new obstacles in the way of the country's unification, and a factor of tension throughout the far eastern region. The DPRK representative, at the commission's session, pointed out that the unprecedented show of force is directed against the DPRK and is aggressive in nature. More than 200,000 American and South Korean servicemen, large naval and airforce units, including ships and planes carrying nuclear weapons, will be involved in the war games. The planned transfer of a great number of American troops and military hardware to the south of the Korean peninsula contradicts the commitments assumed by the United States under an armistice agreement.

Washington and Seoul should stop actions leading to a further heigthening of tension in the peninsula and hindering a peaceful solution of the Korean issue, stressed the DPRK's chief delegate. He demanded that the United States refrain from provocations violating the Republic's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including flights by American reconnaissance planes over its territorial waters. The American side should stop the buildup of aggressive troops in South Korea and remove its armaments and military equipment, including nuclear weapons from there.

THAI FORCES, CAMBODIAN REBELS CLASH WITH PRK ARMY

LD301032 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Phnom Penh January 30 TASS -- The Thai military continues to stage provocations on the border with the People's Republic of Kampuchea, violating this country's sovereignty and security and working up tension in the region, the Kampuchean news agency SPK said. I reported that in the course of just one week, from January 17 to 24, reconnaissance planes of the Thai Air Force intruded into Kampuchean air space on four occasions, while Thai military boats made repeated incursions into Kampuchea's territorial waters.

Bands of Khmer reactionaries, supported by the fire of Thai artillery and by tanks moved to forward positions near the border, made several attempts to thrust into Kampuchea in order to stage acts of sabotage, brigandage and terrorism in its territory. Those actions, however, were issued a befitting rebuff, with Kampuchean frontier guards killing more than 270 of the bandits and capturing large amounts of weapons and materiel.

The SPK commented that it is the policies of imperialist states and other reactionary forces, which are obediently served by Thailand, that have made South East Asia into one of the world's "trouble spots". The People's Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea, which has matured over the years of people's government and enjoys the backing of the entire population, stands reliably on guard of the gains of the revolution and the peaceful work of the Kampuchean people. It is prepared to repulse any encroachments on the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and cut short any adventurist provocative actions against People's Kampuchea.

MOSCOW URGES FURTHER ASEAN-CEMA TRADE TIES

LD292202 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the "Focus on Asia" program: commentary by Maksim Shereyamov -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] There are certain achievements in trade between the Soviet Union and the countries of Southeast Asia which develop along the capitalist path. For example, trade between the Soviet Union and Indonesia has expanded fifteenfold in the past decade. Last year our country imported 50 percent more goods from Indonesia than it did in 1983, and the imports from Singapore even tripled in the year. Unlike the capitalist countries, the Soviet Union does not create any artificial obstacles in the way of exports from countries of the region; 20 years ago it abolished customs duties on commodities from the developing countries. The socialist countries buy in that region more than 30 percent of Malaysian and 20 percent of Indonesian rubber, 20 percent of Thai fluorite and also large amounts of jute and jute products, hides, mineral raw materials, clothing, coconut oil. The stable purchases of the above goods by the socialist countries benefit the foreign trade of the ASEAN countries. This is especially true at the present moment when the situation on the capitalist market is unfavorable for them.

The imports of the six countries of ASEAN include printing equipment and chemical fertilizers from the German Democratic Republic, instruments from Hungary, tire plants and sugar refineries from Czechoslovakia, agricultural machines from Bulgaria. All kinds of machines and equipment are also bought from the Soviet Union. Nonetheless, the total volume of these purchases is insignificant and is much less than the amount of ASEAN products bought by the socialist countries. It's natural therefore that the share of trade with the socialist countries in the foreign trade of the ASEAN countries make up only a few percent. In other words the potential possibilities for the developing of trade are so far used inadequately.

The scale of cooperation in the construction of economic facilities is still (?less). True, there have been some fruitful (?precedents) in the field, for example the giant Soviet-Singapore company for prcoessing sea products has earned a good reputation. Poland and Indonesia jointly make textile dyes. Czechoslovakia and Malaysia cooperate in the manufacture of rubber products, and Hungary has helped Thailand build a plant (?of electric bulbs).

(?Yet) it is obvious that such a scale of cooperation is still far from corresponding to the economic and technical potential of the member-countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. One of the reasons for this (?lag) is the extensive dependence of the ASEAN countries on the Western powers and Japan, which have in fact monopolized foreign economic contacts in the region. It's not easy for the countries of the region to get rid of this (?appendage), yet they are more and more determined to strengthen their independence by expanding mutually beneficial contacts with the socialist countries, members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. This striving meets with understanding and support of the nations of the socialist community.

USSR-FRG COOPERATION TALKS END IN BONN

LD291754 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] The Soviet-West German Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation has held its regular session in Bonn. A joint communique following the meeting confirmed readiness to continue developing economic relations on a basis of bilateral agreement. The head of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Antonov, had meetings with the federal chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and the foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Trade Restrictions Scored

PM291444 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 Jan 85 p 3

[Report by own correspondent G. Gavrilkin: "Eliminating the Barriers"]

[Text] Bonn -- The 13th session of the USSR and FRG Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation has ended in Bonn. The sides stated that the existing economic agreements and accords between the two states are by and large being successfully fulfilled. Mutual trade has increased and bilateral ties have continued to expand. The implementation of long-term contracts and major cooperation projects remains a substantial factor in their development.

It was noted in a joint communique that progress has been achieved in the power industry sphere and in the implementation of the long-term agreement on additional deliveries of natural gas from the Soviet Union to the FRG, which began in October 1984. A number of major projects has been pursued in the chemical industry sphere on a barter basis.

In the opinion of the sides, there is potential for the further development of cooperation in the chemical industry and in the creation of chemical installations. Machine building, and in particular, West German firms' participation in the modernization and reconstruction of certain industrial enterprises in the Soviet Union, is a promising area.

At the same time, it was stressed at the press conference on the results of the session that there are substantial barriers in the way of the further development of Soviet-West German trade and economic relations. In particular, Soviet delegation head A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, noted in response to your correspondent's question about the part played by the system for regulating FRG trade with the USSR in the implementation of bilateral trade and economic ties:

"The system for regulating FRG trade with the USSR is obviously having an adverse effect on its development. Unfortunately, in recent years the FRG has not only retained various restrictions on trade with the FRG but has introduced new ones. There are the Consultative Group Coordination Committee's prohibited lists and restrictions on imports of certain types of Soviet goods. The initiators of these measures are not always aware of the possible consequences. The wishes of FRG business circles coincide with the wishes of Soviet organizations. If we want to further develop our relations in the economic sphere it will be necessary to remove all the obstacles."

The next session of the USSR and FRG Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation is due to be held in the Soviet Union in late 1985-early 1986.

FRG SEEN UNDERGOING REVANCHIST REVIVAL

PM291643 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 4, Jan 85 p 10

[Lev Bezymenskiy "NEW TIMES Observer's View": "What is There To Debate?"]

[Text] The West German Embassy in Moscow has kindly sent NEW TIMES excerpts from an article by the West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher dealing with the Federal Republic's relations with the socialist countries made public by the Bonn Foreign Ministry on January 3. The excerpts are indeed of interest, considering that public opinion in the socialist community is disquieted by some of the tendencies that are making themselves felt in West Germany.

The West German foreign minister himself is aware of this disquiet. He writes: "On the territorial issues that predominated in the discussions of the cold-war period, a settlement was arrived at through treaties in the early seventies which made it possible to remove a substantial obstacle in German-Soviet relations and in relations between West and East. Lately, however, a discussion of an unnecessary futile and harmful nature has again begun."

The Soviet reader of course will be surprised, to say the least, to learn that by "German-Soviet relations" the foreign minister clearly means not relations with nonexistent Germany, but with the existing Federal Republic of Germany. But let us not dwell on the terminological aspect but look at the substance of the matter. According to Genscher, the substance is this: "As regards developments in our country, the East surely should see that ten years ago the debate for and against the eastern treaties predominated in our internal political discussions. Now these treaties have become a firm component of internal political accord. This should not be underestimated." Genscher goes on to say that the Federal Republic abides by the treaties, and declares: "To sum up, it should be noted that the new discussion between us and our eastern neighbours about frontiers in Europe is useless, unnecessary and dangerous. We cannot gain anything by it, but we could lose a great deal."

I am certain that the Soviet reader will evaluate these statements for what they are worth. What is noteworthy, however, is that the West German foreign minister has made such pronouncements before this. Yet those engaged in the "unnecessary futile and harmful" discussion have no intention of discontinuing it. Incidentally, the vice-chancellor and minister of foreign affairs did not mention them by name, but that's his business. Let us take the liberty of making some pertinent observations.

First, how applicable is the definition "discussion" to the revival of revanchist tendencies in the speeches of West German political leaders?

What discussion can there be today about European frontiers? The treaties of the seventies and the Helsinki Final Act have not been annulled. Hence one can hardly agree with Genscher when he speaks of a "new discussion between us and our eastern neighbours about frontiers." No such discussion is underway. All the more so since the Oder-Neisse border is not a West German frontier, it is the frontier between two fraternal socialist countries -- German Democratic Republic and Poland. Frontiers are not subject to debate. The issue was decided by the war in the course of which the German Reich with its territorial claims and its frontiers of the time went up in flames once and for all. History itself forty years ago in Yalta and Potsdam cancelled out such claims.

Second. What can West Germany gain from such a debate from the standpoint of its domestic policy? Can we take comfort in the fact that whereas in the seventies opinions were divided in West Germany between the supporters and the opponents of the treaties, now the majority is in favor of them?

This is small comfort. The fact cannot be ignored that among those who question the treaties there are not only irresponsible windbags, but responsible functionaries of the two ruling parties. And in general can there be "discussion" of undebatable things, of documents signed by the Federal Republic? to engage in such discussion is to belittle the importance of the historic treaties of the seventies. If the Federal Republic's cardinal commitments are being regularly questioned, what is their worth.

FRENCH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS VIEWED

PM290926 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jan 85 First Edition p 4

[Dispatch by own correspondent I. Shchedrov: "What Lies Behind the Unprecedented Frosts. France at the Beginning of the Year"]

[Excerpts] Paris, January -- A kind of "equator" was crossed in the days of the new year -- the halfway point in F. Mitterrand's 7-year term as president. With the spring a whole series of election skirmishes begins; they promise to be heated and will determine who will be entrusted with charting the route of the French ship of state at the next stage. The canton elections are scheduled for March and they are viewed here as a kind of rehearsal before the battles of the summer of next year for the National Assembly seats.

The Socialists' shift to the right, initiated in the spring of 1983 and expressed in the "economic stringency" policy whereby the brunt of the crisis phenomena was mainly shifted onto the working people's shoulders, and in the rejection of the implementation of many progressive reforms announced in the election programs, led to a new correlation of forces. Last July, the Communists, who for 3 years had been in the government, in which the key positions were kept for the Socialists, refused to join the new cabinet after the prime minister steered a course toward further intensifying the "economic stringency" policy which, according to a French Communist Party [PCF] statement, was a deviation from the common program of action of the Socialists and Communists coordinated in 1981.

The direct elections to the "Europarliament" last June held in the atmosphere of the unabating anticommunist campaign and intensifying pressure from the right and the subsequent partial elections and public opinion polls have shown that the correlation of forces in the country has begun to change markedly. True, the Socialist Party [PS] still has a majority of seats in the National Assembly (it is in the minority in the Senate), but only a little over one-fifth of voters and those taking part in public opinion polls now support the ruling party, while two-fifths are already taking the bait of the right-wing opposition parties -- the Rally for the New Republic and the Union for French Democracy. Since last summer the threat from the extreme right-wing forces has also increased. At the "Europarliament" elections 1 out of every 10 voters voted for the neofascist "National Front" movement.

The recent congresses and national conferences of the major political parties focused their attention on strategy and tactics for the forthcoming period. Despite the intensifying criticism from the left, so far the forces advocating a continuation of the present course are dominant in the PS leadership.

A number of new concessions to big capital and the right-wing forces have been made by the ruling party on questions of taxation policy, in programs for industrial modernization, and a number of other problems.

Preparation for the next, 25th, PCF Congress scheduled for February has been launched vigorously throughout the country. During the discussions on the congress draft political resolution the majority of Communists expressed themselves in favor of activating the principled struggle, based on class positions, against big capital and reaction and for a way out of the crisis on the path of the revival of the national economy and the continuation of progressive democratic reforms. The PCF's attention continues to be focused on the struggle against mass unemployment and the lowering of the standard of living and for the working people's interests. The Communists' high degree of activeness is borne out by the numerous proposals made by local PCF cells and federations.

Continuing to emphasize its NATO membership and supporting Washington's deployment of first-strike nuclear missile weapons in West Europe, Paris has at the same time recently introduced certain amendments to some other sections of its foreign policy course, proceeding from its own interests. The interventionist forces have been withdrawn from Lebanon and Chad, which has generated widespread approval within the country and anger in Washington. The French Government has openly denounced actions of the U.S. Administration, like the armed intervention in Grenada, the fuelling of tension in Central America, and the provocative campaign against UNESCO. Washington's plans to militarize space have also caused great concern in Paris.

Demands for the pursuit of a more independent foreign policy and for vigorous initiatives to be undertaken to set up ties between East and West and to strengthen security in Europe and throughout the world are being heard increasingly loudly in the ranks of the ruling and opposition parties.

President F. Mitterrand's official visit to the Soviet Union last June and the Moscow summit talks created opportunities for expanding and intensifying bilateral relations between our countries and prerequisities for joint efforts to strengthen peace and security in Europe and throughout the world. Political ties and consultations between our countries have been somewhat enlivened recently. The Soviet Union and France are widely celebrating the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

These and other changes are taking place in the atmosphere of the antiwar movement growing in the country. All public opinions steadily show the concern of the majority of French men and women with the complication of the international situation.

Official Paris and the French public assessed with satisfaction the accord reached in Geneva regarding the Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear armaments. Eminent politicians and public figures and the mass media are noting at the same time that in the situation that has formed France could, as has frequently been the case in the past, play a more active part in seeking ways of safeguarding security in Europe and throughout the world an in developing closer ties between West and East, including between France and the Soviet Union. In his recent public statements President F. Mitterrand has expressed himself in favor of the need for the further development of the traditional relations between France and the USSR and the continuation of the summit dialogue resumed in June last year.

"I view with optimism," French Prime Minister L. Fabius said in a talk with your correspondent recently, "the prospect for improving and intensifying Franco-Soviet relations, primarily in the political and economic spheres."

The Soviet Union's position, and people in France know this, remains unchanged: We are in favor of a solicitous attitude toward the good relations formed over the decades in our mutual relations.

GOOD FRANCO-SOVIET TIES REFLECTED IN TRADE

LD292148 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1920 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the "World Today" program presented by political observer Georgiy Zubkov]

[Summary] Good Franco-Soviet relations contribute considerably to stability in Europe, as Comrade Chernenko pointed out in the preface to the French edition of his writings. Franco-Soviet trade turnover continues to grow.

In the first 3 years of the current decade, trade turnover amounted to almost R16 billion, which is 70 percent higher than the total turnover in the preceding 5 years. Soviet contracts for French equipment were worth around 45 billion francs in the period 1973-1983.

French firms are supplying equipment for the Minsk refrigerator works, the Izhevskiy passenger vehicle works in Moscow, the Kamskiy truck plant and the Orenburg gas-chemical complex.

The Franco-Soviet Chamber of Commerce encompasses over 400 French and Soviet firms and organizations, and over 100,000 French workers are employed by helping to fill Soviet orders.

NATO PRESSURE ON BELGIUM OVER MISSILES ANALYZED

LD291605 Moscow TASS in English 1524 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS -- By TASS news analyst Vasiliy Kharkov: Belgium, whose stand on the deployment of American cruise missiles provoked strong irritation in Washington, is being subjected to massive pressure by NATO. During meetings in Brussels on Monday between Belgium's External Relations Minister Leo Tindemans and NATO General Secretary Lord Carrington, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe and ministers of some other member states of the North Atlantic bloc, who persistently demanded that the Belgian Government strictly adhere to the Pentagon's time-table for the deployment of American Tomahawks on the country's territory. [sentence as received]. This means that the first 16 out of 48 missiles slated for positioning in Belgium are to be fielded there as early as March this year.

Washington sought to use the recent visit to the United States by Belgium's prime minister and external relations minister for imposing on them this time-table. Political pressure, a typical means employed by the American Administration, was used this time as well.

The Belgian prime minister made it clear, however, that the deployment of first American Tomahawks, scheduled for March, will be, probably, put off and that the implementation of NATO's missile plans is made dependent on the "results of talks" in Geneva. A stormy debate in the Belgian Parliament on the results of the trip showed serious opposition to the introduction of first-strike American weapons into the country.

In an attempt to calm down public opinion, the govenment announced last Saturday that the actual deployment of American missiles will take place "only if it gives its consent after consultations and in agreement with NATO allies."

But these "consultations" started in an atmosphere of unprecedented pressure on Belgium by its NATO allies which are calling for "Atlantic solidarity" and simultaneously warning that if Brussels fails to demonstrate full support for the Pentagon's nuclear missile plans, this will, allegedly, negatively affect the forthcoming talks in Geneva.

Meanwhile, the problem of the Tomahawk deployment in Belgium became a pivot of keen political struggle. According to public opinion polls, about 80 per cent of the country's population oppose the stationing of American first-strike weapons. Parliament statements by leaders of both groups of the socialist party, the Volksunie and other parties showed that the overwhelming majority of the Belgium people reject the plans of turning the country into a launch pad for these weapons. Belgium's two largest peace associations came out with a joint anti-nuclear platform.

Since parliamentary elections are to be held in Belgium this year, the parties of the present government coalition cannot but reckon with the broad anti-nuclear movement in the country. And the fact that Washington, through NATO, is seeking to impose on Brussels a decision that runs counter to the people's will, only shows once again that the North Atlantic bloc is being used as the Pentagon's nuclear missile lever.

BELGIAN PARTIES OPPOSE CRUISE DEPLOYMENT

LD292137 Moscow TASS in English 1923 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Brussels January 29 TASS -- Correspondent Albert Balebanov reporting:

Ever more resolute calls are being made in Belgium for renouncing the Pentagon- and NATO-planned deployment of U.S. cruise missiles on the country's territory.

Everything should be done to make the government respect the will of a majority of the population which does not want U.S. nuclear missiles to appear in their country, says a statement published by the Politbureau of the Communist Party of Belgium here today. The statement stresses that wide sections of the public are opposed to Belgium's participation in the escalation of the nuclear arms race. The Communist Party urges all political parties of the country to demand that the Belgian parliament come out in favor of freezing the deployment of nuclear arms in Europe at least for the duration of the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on nuclear and space arms which are to open in Geneva.

Agalev, the party of Flemish ecologists, demands a national referendum on the issue of U.S. nuclear missiles. A statement circulated by the party says that on such important a matter "the government should consult the population, and must reckon with the desire of its majority."

The Volkunie (People's Union) Party urges the Belgians to take an active part in the demonstration to be held in Flanders February 17 in protest against the dangerous missile plans being imposed on Belgium.

The Socialist Party (Flemish Wing) demands that the parliament order an investigation to find out who empowered the former national defense minister Franz Swaelen to sign, as it has become known recently, the NATO-drafted schedule for the deployment of cruise missiles in Belgium. That fact, says a statement issued by the party, was concealed from the parliament and public.

BELGIAN, NETHERLANDS CP'S ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

LD300932 Moscow TASS in English 0837 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Brussels January 30 TASS -- Delegations of the Communist Party of Belgium and the Communist Party of the Netherlands have declared against deployment of U.S. nuclear-missiles weapons in the two countries. They have held a meeting in Antwerp to discuss the problems of European security, and end to the race of arms, of nuclear arms, in the first place, and questions of struggle against NATO's missile decisions.

The two parties' joint statement on the results of the meeting, which has been circulated here, says that non-deployment of 48 cruise missiles in each of the two countries, the missiles which are being stubbornly imposed upon them by Washington and NATO, "would contribute to creating a favourable climate in the field of European security." The measures being suggested by the two parties would also promote, in their view, "an end to the deployment of medium-range missiles in other countries of Europe."

CONFERENCE DELEGATES PROTEST NAZI'S RELEASE

LD291306 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Vienna January 29 TASS -- Italian and Austrian delegates to an international conference-dialogue on disarmament and detente issues, held here, have come out with a joint statement protesting against the early release from prison of war criminal, former SS Major Reder. That Nazi butcher is directly responsible for the autumn 1944 massacre at the village of Marzabotto and several other populated localites in northern Italy. 1,830 people, including old men, women and children, were executed there "for links with partisans."

The statement stresses that public opinion is the more enraged for sham "humanism" has been shown at a time when the world is preparing to observe the 40th anniversary of the peoples' victory over Nazi Germany. No matter what reasons the official authorities might give to justify their decision, they can only encourage new provocations by old and new "brownshirts" who are stepping up their activities in several countries of Western Europe, the statement points out.

PAPANDREOU CITED ON NUCLEAR WARHEAD DEPLOYMENT

LD301124 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Athens January 30 TASS -- The Government of Greece will reject any American request to deploy updated nuclear warheads in Greece, said Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou upon his return to Athens from New Delhi, where he attended a six nation summit meeting.

He stressed that Greece has already rejected Washington's proposal aimed at gearing it even faster to the American nuclear chariot. The USA, Papandreou said, asked to renovate the depots where the warheads are stored, meaning modernisation... and we did not give permission.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi Papandreou answered the question of Greece's stand on the creation of a nuclear free zone in the Balkans. He said: "Greece firmly declares for the total withdrawal of nuclear weapons from her territory. These weapons were deployed in our country by the United States many years ago, without any approval by parliament and other legislative bodies.

It is under the control of the United States and not of Greece. I have notified the United States Administration that if it did not take steps on its side to withdraw nuclear weapons from the Greek soil, we would have to act on our own.

In connection with these pronouncements by the prime minister, the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency recalls that in accordance with the agreement concluded with the USA in the early sixties, around 60 American tactical nuclear missiles are deployed in Greece's territory near Athens. in the Peloponese and in northern Greece.

The stand taken by the Greek prime minister has met with apparent exasperation in Washington. U.S. Secretary of Defence was in a hurry to criticise Athens. He claimed in an interview with a number of Western news agencies, that the withdrawal of American nuclear weapons would weaken the defence of Greece itself. If one listens to Weinberger, he may begin to think that the American defence secretary is by far more concerned with the security of Greece than that country's prime minister himself.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH AUSTRIA -- Vienna January 24 TASS -- Versatile business contacts between the USSR and Austria which are a good example of cooperation of states with different social systems develop dynamically and for mutual advantage. A convincing example of it is the signing of a contract by the Soviet foreign trade association "Metallurg-import", the Austrian state concern "Voest-Alpine" and the Italian firm "Danieli y Co," which provides for cooperation in the construction of a complex for the manufacturing of metal cord and alloyed-steel rolled stock at the metallurgical works in Zhlobin, Belorussia. Versatile trade, economic, scientific and technical ties between the USSR and Austria are based on the principles of mutual advantage and goodneighbourliness. This is confirmed by traditional cooperation between the state concern "Voest-Alpine" and Soviet enterprises. The concern purchases from the USSR various equipment and many types of raw materials. Thus, Soviet-made cooling installations successfully function at the concern's works in Linz where one of the biggest blast furnaces in Europe is installed. Steel sheets produced at the works are made of Soviet iron ore which is delivered by the Danube River by Austrian and Soviet ships. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 2129 GMT 24 Jan 85 LD]

COTTON EQUIPMENT FOR GREECE -- Tashkent January 25 TASS -- A large consignment of equipment for the cotton ginning industry was sent to Greece from the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. Automated lines for processing raw cotton and other machinery will make it possible to create a complete technological cycle at a cotton ginning factory under construction in Greece. Equipment with the trademark of the production amalgamation "Uzbekklopkomash" is now used in many Asian, African, and Latin American cotton growing countries. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 25 Jan 85 LD]

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATES MEET SYRIAN OFFICIALS

PM291149 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Our USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation's Visit to the Syrian Arab Republic"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A.U. Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was in the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR] 21 through 28 January 1985 on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the SAR People's Assembly.

The delegation was received by H. al-Asad, General Secretary of the Ba'th Party and president of the SAR.

Talks were held with an SAR People's Assembly delegation headed by People's Assembly speaker M. Al-Zu'bi.

The Soviet parliamentarians had meetings with A. al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the Ba'th Party; SAR Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; SAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm; and SAR foreign minister F. al-Shara'.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation visited the city of Al-Qunaytirah, barbarically destroyed by the Israeli aggressors, and also toured the country, familiarized itself with the Syrian people's life and work and achievements, and visited a number of projects for Soviet-Syrian economic cooperation and historical sights in Damascus, Aleppo, and Palmyra.

During the meetings and talks, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and complete mutual understanding, the sides discussed questions connected with the successful and fruitful development of Soviet-Syrian relations based on the firm foundation of the 1980 Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the SAR.

The sides informed each other of the activity of the parliaments in their countries, exchanged opinions on questions of bilateral parliamentary relations, and discussed ways of further strengthening and developing them.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation members familiarized the Syrian People's Assembly delegation with the Soviet people's achievements in resolving the tasks of economic and social building put forward by the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. They described the nationwide preparation launched in the Soviet Union for the next, 27th, CPSU Congress and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The Syrian People's Assembly delegation informed the Soviet delegation of achievements in the SAR's socioeconomic and cultural development, especially since the 7th Ba'th Party Regional Conference and the decisions of subsequent Ba'th Party Central Committee plenums.

The Soviet delegation was familiarized with the results of the work of the Eighth Regional Ba'th Conference and its decisions aimed at the SAR's further socioeconomic and cultural development, the consolidation of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and resistance to anti-Arab designs.

During the exchange of opinions on topical international questions, the USSR Supreme Soviet and SAR People's Assembly deputies expressed serious concern at the conservation of the tense situation in the world, stressing that the blame rests wholly on the aggressive U.S. circles which are continuing their attempts to secure a dominant position in the world.

The sides paid special attention to the situation in the Near East. Pointing to the continuing explosive situation in the region, they noted that the reason for this situation is the aggressive, adventurist policy of the United States and Israel which, having concluded a "strategic alliance" agreement, are stepping up their offensive against the Arab countries and peoples. The escalation of U.S. military presence in the region is aimed at foisting U.S. hegemony on the Near East peoples, striking against the Arab national liberation movement, and undermining friendly Soviet-Arab relations.

The Soviet and Syrian parliamentarians resolutely denounced the aggressive policy of the United States and Israel in the Near East and the continuation of Israel's occupation of Arab lands. They also denounced the U.S.-Israeli course of separate deals aimed at splitting the ranks of the Arab countries and depriving the Arab peoples of their legitimate rights.

The sides denounced the continuing Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and resolutely demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from that country in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, They stressed that the solution of the Lebanese problems is possible only on condition that Lebanon's unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty are preserved by reaching a national consensus in that country. In this regard, the sides noted that Lebanon's abrogation of the 17 May 1983 agreement with Israel is a major achievement for Lebanon, Syria, and all Arab peoples.

It was resolved to continue to seek with joint efforts the establishment of a fair and lasting peace in the Near East on the basis of the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the implementation of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state. It was emphasized that the path to such a settlement lies through the convening of an international conference on the Near East with the participation of the PLO -- the only legitimate representatives of the Arab people of Palestine.

Both delegations noted with satisfaction the dynamic and fruitful development of Soviet-Syrian relations on the basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty, which is a firm foundation for the consolidation of bilateral relations between the USSR and Syria and an important factor in strengthening the positions of all anti-imperialist forces in the Near East.

The sides noted the urgent need to support the ranks of the Arab countries' anti-imperialist patriotic forces with a view to the Arabs' successful struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for the attainment of a just and lasting peace in the Near East.

The Soviet and Syrian delegations rated highly the meetings and talks which had taken place and stated their intention to continue to develop and expand Soviet-Syrian parliamentary ties, which are an important element of the multifaceted friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Syria.

The Syrian parliamentarians stated their support for the USSR's constructive peace-loving course aimed at strengthening world peace and international security, sparing mankind the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, and curbing the arms race. In this regard, note was taken of the importance and topicality of the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union at the 39th General Assembly Session on the use of space for exclusively peaceful purposes and the intolerability of the policy of state terrorism. The Syrian side welcomed the agreement, reached at the Soviet Union's initiative, to hold talks with the United States on the entire range of questions concerning space and nuclear armaments.

The Syrian side expressed support for the recent Soviet proposals on a Near East settlement and on convening an international conference under UN auspices for the purpose.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation highly rated Syria's principled policy on Near East issues and its effective contribution to the struggle against Israeli aggression and the attempts of imperialism and its stooges to impose capitulationist deals on the Arab countries. The Soviet side confirmed its support for the just cause of the Syrian and other Arab peoples struggling against Israeli aggression and imperialist intrigues in the Near East.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation expressed thanks for the warm, cordial reception and hospitality shown to it.

Meeting With Al-Asad Detailed

PM291319 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Friendship"]

[Text] Damascus, 28 Jan -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has received a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by A.U. Salimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is here on an official friendly visit.

During the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, there was a detailed exchange of opinions on questions of the international position and the situation in the Near East and the development of Soviet-Syrian cooperation in various spheres.

The Syrian president expressed profound satisfaction with the high level of multilateral links between the Ba'th Party and the CPSU and between the two friendly states and peoples on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between Syria and the Soviet Union.

H. al-Asad declared Syria's commitment to the principles of that treaty, which meets the country's national interests and the cause of peace and progress in the Near East and throughout the world. He stressed that the Ba'th Party, Syria, and the entire Syrian people are sincerely striving to deepen and expand friendship and cooperation with the USSR. The Syrian president appraised highly the support which the friendly Soviet Union is giving Syria in countering Israeli aggression and imperialist pressure. The USSR's fundamental and consistent position on Near East issues, he pointed out, is an important factor helping the Arab peoples to counter the dangerous plans of imperialism and Zionism in the region.

H. al-Asad noted that the economic, scientific, and technical assistance being provided by the USSR is strengthening Syria's national economy and promoting the progress and prosperity of the Syrian people.

The head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation declared the Soviet people's solidarity with Syria in its struggle against U.S. and Israeli anti-Arab plans aimed at establishing neocolonial domination in the Near East. Syria's anti-imperialist course meets with fervent support among millions of Soviet people, he said, stressing that friendly Soviet-Syrian relations constitute a vivid example of fruitful cooperation between states.

The same day the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation met Syrian Vice President A.H. Khaddam. During a friendly conversation there was an exchange of opinions on questions of developing and strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria. F.N. Fedotov, USSR ambassador to Syria, took part in the meetings.

BA'TH PARTY COMMUNIQUE UNDERLINES USSR TIES

LD261618 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus January 26 TASS -- Syria will continue to struggle for full deliverance of all Arab lands from Israeli occupation and for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state of their own, says a final communique of the eighth regional conference of the Arab Socialist Rennaissance Party (Ba'th) of Syria.

The Ba'th, point out the communique which has been issued here, will continue to resolutely oppose Camp-David-style deals and any attempts at a separate settlement of Middle East problem. The commnuique stresses Syria's striving to broaden and strengthen versatile relations with the Soviet Union, the relations which are based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation which was signed between the two countries in 1980.

The strengthening of friendly relations with the USSR and other states of the socialist community, the communique says, promotes an intensification of the Arab peoples' struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

TASS CITIES IRAQI, IRANIAN WAR REPORTS

LD301008 Moscow TASS in English 0916 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad January 30 TASS - The latest communique of the Iraqi High Military Command says that yesterday the Iraqi troops launched missile artillery strikes against the enemy on the southern, central and northern sectors of the front, destroying combat positions, dugouts and ammunition depots.

General M.A. al-Rashid, commander of the Third Corps of the Iraqi Army, said that in the course of the offensive in the early hours of January 28 the Iraqi troops "captured all the present positions and consolidated their hold of them. They inflicted heavy losses upon the Iranian troops in manpower and materiel."

Nicosia January 30 TASS -- According to a report of the IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY (IRNA), Iranian troops are holding their positions in the Majnun Islands captured by them last year. In the course of fighting in that area, more than 200 Iraqi servicemen were killed and a large number was wounded, seven landing boats, which took part in the operation, artillery pieces and other military equipment were destroyed.

Over the past twenty-four hours, the IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY said, the Iranian artillery intensively shelled concentrations of enemy troops, enemy objectives in the rear and communications.

MEXICAN SOCIALIST LEADER URGES ANTI-U.S. FRONT

LD281019 Moscow TASS in English 0850 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City January 28 TASS -- Mexico has become a target of the subversive plan drawn up in Washington which is carried through by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, U.S. special services and the local reactionary forces represented by the right-wing National Action Party and the clergy. This has been stated by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist People's Party Jorge Cruickshank. The National Action Party connected with the U.S. Republican Party is seriously getting prepared to win the majority in the Chamber of Deputies of the Congress at the elections due to be held in July. Its leaders state that in case of "vote rigging", as they put it, they will resort to violence. It is known that they are going to arm their supporters in order to provoke unrest and destabilize the situation in the country, J. Cruickshank said.

All this permitted the Socialist People's Party to come to the conclusion that the sovereignty of the country was in jeopardy, J. Cruickshank said. The duty of all the left-wing parties, of all the democratic forces is to form a united front for countering the U.S. and its accomplices. He voiced the readiness of the Socialist People's Party to form a coalition with other left-wing parties and organizations and revise the list of its candidates with a view to nominate joint candidates. The party is even ready to dissolve itself for the sake of creating a united party of the working people of Mexico, J. Cruickshank underlined.

J. Cruickshank spoke at the final session of the regular congress of the Socialist People's Party which reelected him general secretary of the Central Committee of the party.

VATICAN PRESSURES NICARAGUAN CLERGYMEN

LD291648 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] New York January 29 TASS -- The top guiding circles in the Vatican continue putting pressure on Nicaraguan clergymen who are actively taking part in the social and economic transformations carried out by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and holding high posts in the government. Thus, it has become known here that the Vatican threatens sanctions against the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto if he does not resign in the course of fifteen days. A spokesman of the Catholic religious organisation "Maryknoll Order," to which Miguel D'Escoto belongs, told journalists that the Vatican had already sent a letter to this effect in the form of an ultimatum to the Nicaraguan minister.

Observers note the inconsistency and contradictions in the actions of the Roman Catholic Church which had at first permitted a group of Nicaraguan clergymen serving on the government to engage in political and state activity and then revoked this permission. As is known, at present posts in the government are held also by the Nicaraguan priests Fernando Cardenal (minister of education) and Ernesto Cardenal (minister of culture). Just like D'Escoto, they took an active part in the struggle to overthrow the pro-American dictatorial regime of Somoza and after the victory of the revolution in the building of a new society in Nicaragua.

What attracts attention is the fact that officials of the Roman Curia have again taken objection to the Nicaraguan clergymen simultaneously with the beginning of a runaway propaganda campaign and a drastic escalation of aggressive intrigues by the Reagan administration against revolutionary Nicaragua.

TASS REPORTS POPE'S TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA

LD292256 Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Caracas January 29 TASS -- Pope John Paul the Second is making a tour of several countries of Latin America. According to press reports, his visit has political overtones. In Venezuela Pope John Paul met statesmen, representatives of different political parties, religious figures, and made a tour of the country. During his meeting with President Jaime Lusinchi, the sides discussed in detail international problems, in particular, the situation in Central America. According to newspapers, the Catholic primate voiced support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to achieve a peaceful settlement of the tense situation in the region.

At the same time Pope Johm Paul openly attacked "liberation theology," which has become particularly widespread in the Catholic communities of Latin America and, in a slightly Venezuelan form, in developing countries of Africa. Addressing Venezuelan clergy in Caracas, tne pope strongly criticized those priests who, as he said, distort the evangelical message, using it in their search for illusory liberation on earth.

The Venezuelan Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples of Central America handed to Pope John Paul a petition exposing U.S. aggressive policy in the region and denouncing Washington's undeclared war against Nicaragua. The document urges the Catholic primate to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the problems of Central America.

Another document, handed to Pope John Paul by the Venezuelan Committee of Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, cites numerous facts of gory terror unleased by the pro-American Duarte regime with the Reagan administration's support.

New York January 29 TASS -- The Vatican leadership continue to exercise pressure on Nicaraguan clergymen energetically participating in socio-economic reforms introduced by the leadership of the Sandino National Liberation Front and holding posts of responsibility in the government. It has come to public knowledge here, in particular, that the Vatican threatens to take sanctions against Nicaragua's foreign minister, Rev Miguel D'Escoto, unless he resigns. A spokesman for the Catholic organization "Maryknoll Order" to which Miguel D'Escoto belongs, has told journalists that the Vatican has already sent an ultimatum to the Nicaraguan foreign minister.

Local political observers point out that initially the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church had nothing against a group of Nicaraguan clergymen involving themselves in state affairs -- but then took a 180-degree turn. At present the Nicaraguan cabinet includes, in addition to D'Escoto, Rev Fernando Cardenal, who serves as education minister, and Ernesto Cardenal, who is culture minister. Like Miguel D'Escoto, they participated in the struggle for the overthrow of the pro-American Somoza dictatorship and, following the victory of the revolution, in building a new society in Nicaragua.

The current campaign of the Curia against Nicarguan clergymen supporting the Sandinista evolution has coincided with the dramatic escalation of the aggressive intrigues of the Reagan administration against revolutionary Nicaragua.

Rome January 29 TASS -- L'UNITA Characterizes John Paul's statements against "liberation theology" as "a veritable requiem for those Catholic clergymen who struggle side by side with the poor and the oppressed in many countries of Latin America."

A well-known student of Vatican, A. Santini, has stressed that the current tour of the pope of Latin American countries is keynoted by attacks on clergymen fighting for freedom and independence and against social injustice. "There was hope that during the tour new aspects would emerge in the Vatican's attitude to "liberation theology." The latest statements of the Catholic primate indicate, however, that the line of the more conservative circles in gaining the upper hand," A. Santini said.

BRIEFS

AWARD TO MARTINIQUE CP LEADER -- By a decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Order of the Friendship of the People has been awarded to Comrade Armand Nicolas, general secretary of the Martinique Communist Party. This marks his services in the struggle for peace and social progress, his contribution to strengthening friendship between the Martinique and Soviet peoples, and his 60th birthday. [Text] [Moscow Television Service in Russian 1254 GMT 27 Jan 85 LD]

CPSU'S ATHEIST LITERATURE CHIEF INTERVIEWED

PM291139 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 85 p 3

[Interview with A.V. Belov, chief of the editorial office for literature on scientific atheism of the CPSU Central Committee Political Literature Publishing House, conducted by G. Veldanova under the "School of Atheism" rubric: "A Thousand Years Ago]"

[Text] [Veldanova] Anatoliy Vasilevich, it is well known that religious associations both in our country and abroad have begun extensive preparations to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of the adoption of Christianity in Russia. Imperialist reaction is also attending to exploit this occasion for its own ends. In the United States for example, a special committee has been set up to prepare for this occasion and a magazine with a clearly anti-Soviet slant called RUSSKOYE VOZROZHDENIYE has begun to appear. Given this, what is the publishing house doing to counter the unscrupulous manipulation of believers' feelings by various religious counterfeiters? What books of a counterpropaganda nature have already appeared and what is the publishing house planning to bring out?

[Belov] Yes, imperialist reaction is trying to exploit the forthcoming 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in Russia to wage extensive anti-Soviet campaigns. They pour out streams of slander about Communists' attitude to religion and believers and they distort the practice of atheist education in our courtry. We cannot allow this to go unanswered. Five years ago the Political Literature Publishing house began publishing the yearly counterpropaganda publication ARGUMENTY. It regularly publishes items exposing the untenability of various church versions of the role of orthodoxy in the history of Russia and provides well argued criticism of the myths about the "persecution" of religion and the "oppression of believers" in the USSR. Using a great deal of factual material, it exposes the real intentions of those who exploit concepts of goodness, humanism, and freedom of conscience in order to attack communist morality.

Religious themes have always occupied a large place in anti-Soviet propaganda. At present the intensification of the ideological struggle is causing our opponents to increasingly turn to reactionary religious organizations for help. Clerical anti-communism constitutes a distinctive form of the ideology and politics of contemporary anticommunism. Cinema, television, and other mass media are also plugged into the clerics' anticommunist activity. Sometimes they dress up the lies elegantly with mock scientific rigor, but often they do not disdain even the most primitive forms.

A striking example of these attacks is cited by M.P. Mchedlov in his book "Religion and the Modern World" ("Religiya i Sovremennost"), published in 1982. "I was able to attend the exhibition 'The Church -- Martyr in the Lands of Communism' research center at the time of the Catholic Church's 21st Ecumenical Council. The exhibition employed special devices to influence visitors' thoughts and feelings and induce anticommunist attitudes and views. It is enough to say that they were met by mournful music and all that was on display was as if behind barbed wire.... These propagandistic and pyschological effects were complemented by a whole array of exhibition stands falsifying history and the modern world and presented the nolders of an atheist outlook as oppressors, barbarians, and so forth."

The real position of religious associations in our country has been presented by V.A. Kuroyedov in his recent book "Religion and the Church in Soviet Society" (Religiya i Tserkov v Sovetskom Obshchestve"].

Fabrications about the oppression of believers in the USSR are usually accompanied by the bourgeois falsifiers' favorite myth about the inevitable violation of the principle of freedom of conscience in a society where most of the people are atheist. Based on an unhistorical approach to the problem, these arguments by "campaigners for human rights in the USSR" serve to justify unlawful actions which leave no doubt as to their political aims. The way Werner de (Boor), West German author of the book "The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians," understands the concept of "freedom" is evident from his appeal for us to be governed by Saint Paul's words "All things are lawful forme, but I will not be brought under the power of any." The makers of the radio program "The Living Word for Russian Youth" broadcast by the "Voice of AND" [expansion unknown] on 16 January 1982 went even further. They called on young believers to firmly oppose Soviet power. These appeals remind one more of a ruthless "crusade" than Christian goodness.

[Veldanova] Nevertheless, the Christian slogan of universal human love surely remains one of Christianity's most attractive features capable of sustaining interest in it even on the part of certain well educated modern people.

[Belov] You are probably right. Whereas previously religion exploited people's ignorance, nowadays churchmen have to seek subtler ways to people's hearts. One such way is to assert the closeness of Christian moral precepts to communist morality. This tendency demonstrates the extraordinary popularity of the ideas of scientific communism brought about by the successes of socialist society. It is no wonder that some churchmen and believers themselves quite sincerely want to find points of contact between communism and religion.

The outward resemblance of some Christian precepts to the principles of communist morality conceals from them the fundamental differences between religious and communist morality. It requires great tact and consideration for the feelings of believers to show them the illusoriness of such ideas. These are the distinguishing qualities of "Morality Without Reward" (Nravstvennost Bez Vozdayaniya"), a book by the journalist M.S. Tartakovskiy which is now being prepared for publication. The book's title conveys well its basic idea that true morality, unlike religious morality, should be based not on fear of God's punishment for one's sins or the expectation of reward "in the next world" but on man's selfless inner need to pursue lofty ideals.

Articles asserting the ideas of our humanism are ever present in the series of books entitled "Atheist's Library ("Biblioteka Ateista") which is designed for a wide range of readers, including believers. Such publications go beyond the framework of traditional atheist themes and contain more than just a critique of religious tenets and rituals. Atheist education is now closely interwoven with other forms of education, namely, moral, patriotic, and aesthetic. We see it as our task to publish literature that asserts our society's lofty ideals, sets out the need for an attentive attitude toward man and his inner world, and shows how reciprocal relations within the collective and the ability to link production tasks with educational work help to mold people's atheistic convictions. Successful examples in this regard are provided by the recently published books "A Kind Word" ("Dobroye Slovo") by V.V. Shevelev and "Responsible for Man" ("V Otvete za Cheloveka") by E.Z. Bayramov.

[Veldanova] Publications on scientific atheism are soon snatched up in the streets. How do you explain the demand for such publications?

[Belov] We have recently read a review entitled "Soviet Books and Brochures on the Theme of 'Atheism.' Facts and Figures" by the West German journalist Paul Roth, which was published in the June (1984) issue of the journal "Stimmen der Zeit." The aim of this research is to show how many books of atheist content are produced in the Soviet Union. The author's conclusion that "books and brochures on antireligious themes in the USSR are produced in ridiculously small print runs and behind closed doors" is surprising to say the least. According to trade organization figures, atheist literature is among the leaders. As for print runs, you can judge for yourself: The 1983 edition of the standard work "Atheist Dictionary" ("Ateisticheskiy Slovar"), which ran to 200,000 copies, was sold out in just a few days. The second edition runs to 300,000 copies. The "Pocket Dictionary of Atheism" ("Karmannyy Slovar Ateista") has already run to four editions totaling 500,000 copies. The fifth edition if coming out this year. The demand for N.M. Nikolskiy's book, "The History of the Russian Church" (Istoriya Russkoy Tservkvi") in the "Library of Atheist Literature" (Biblioteka Ateisticheskoy Literatury") was so great that it sold out in just a few hours and further 200,000 copies had to be printed. The "Atheist's Reference Manual" (Nastolnaya Kniga Ateista") edited by S.D. Skazkin is so popular that the total run has already reached 700,000 copies and the eighth edition is due to appear early this year.

I should advise the author of the research on the publication of atheist literature in the USSR to exchange views with the English [as published] writer Irving Stone whose biographical novel of Charles Darwin entitled "The Origin" was one of our publishing house's bestsellers. While visiting the Soviet Union in 1982 Irving Stone was impressed by the number of copies in each edition of atheist literature in our country. And the demand for our publishing house's books demonstrates that it is producing books which the readers want.

TASS ON APPROACHING SUPREME SOVIET ELECTIONS

LD291438 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS -- TASS news analyst Boris Prokhorov writes:

Candidates for the supreme soviets of the union republics and local government bodies are now being registered at the meetings of district election commissions. As is known, the elections are scheduled for February 24. There is not much time left. Therefore pre-election meetings of the electorate and candidates are to begin next week. In short, the election campaign is at its height, and this leaves its mark on the entire life of the country.

Among the signs of approaching elections are not only bright-coloured posters and streamers to be seen everywhere, and not only newspaper, radio and television reports but also such an ordinary human factor as being busy in the evening for many. The matter is that every election campaign in the USSR is a mass campaign involving millions of people. 2.3 million constituencies and electoral districts have been set up for the present elections throughout the country. In all about nine million people have been elected to the election commissions which are concerned with the preparation and holding of elections.

As a rule, the most experienced and mature representatives of work collectives and public organizations, people enjoying great respect and prestige, are elected to election commissions. The younger activists are entrusted with no less important, but more mobile, jobs of canvassers who go from house to house and tell people about the candidates. There are several million canvassers now.

These are not official estimates, of course, but I think it is safe to say that approximately one in ten adults in this country participates, in this way or an other, in the present election campaign.

And this is only nature since Soviet people are preparing for elections to their own, people's, government bodies. So who else but representatives of the people should take part in the election campaign?

By the way, the involvement of the masses in election campaigns in the USSR also reflects the mass participation of Soviet people in the work of soviets at all levels. Take for example the numerical strength of local government bodies -- rural, district, city, regional, territorial ones. There were 1,822,000 deputies working on them 25 years ago while their number increased to 2,285,000 two and a half years ago when the now functioning soviets were elected. In the new elections almost three million deputies of local soviets will be elected.

But it is not only the three-million strong army of duly elected representatives of the people who run things in the soviets, the only and plenipotentiary local government bodies. A body of active helpers from among local residents forms around the soviets. These activists take part in the preparation and discussion of practically all questions and all decisions of the soviets. There are least 30 million activists cooperating with the local soviets.

If the millions mentioned above are added together, they will give a good idea of the soviets' broad social and political base on which the power of the people, by the people and for the people rests and the edifice of Soviet socialist democracy is built.

MOLDAVIAN CP PLENUM FOCUSES ON CADRE SHORTCOMINGS

LD291901 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] A Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee plenum was held today devoted to improving work with cadres. The rapporteur -- Comrade Grossu, first secretary of the republic's Communist Party Central Committee -- and other speakers, noted improvements in the selection, assignment, and education of managing cadres and enhancement of their responsibility in all sectors. The plenum concentrated attention on shortcomings in cadre work, such as when direct dealings with people are sometimes replaced by bureaucratic procedures and when managers' qualities are evaluated purely through written questionnaires. Participants in the plenum laid down measures for further improving work with cadres.

ALIYEV, GORBACHEV, GRISHIN ATTEND CHEKHOV SOIREE

LD292218 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1840 GMT 29 Jan 85

["125th Anniversary of Chekhov's Birth" -- TASS headline]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 29 Jan (TASS) -- The artistic heritage of Anton Chekhov is timeless. The solemn soiree which took place in the Moscow Art Academy Theater, the poetical symbol of which was the famous Chekhov "Seagull", was a tribute to Chekhov's memory. It was attended by Geydar Aliyev, Vitaliy Vorotnikov, Mikhail Gorbachev, Viktor Grishin, Petr Demichev, Mikhail Zimyanin, representatives of the party, administrative, and public organizations, labor collectives, and workers in literature and art.

GRISHIN, BAYBAKOV ATTEND MOSCOW POLITICAL READINGS

LD292254 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The advantages of socialism and its immense economic, sociopolitical, and spiritual potential were fully revealed by our people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. This was stressed at sociopolitical readings entitled "40th Anniversary of the Great Victory," which are taking place in Moscow. The readings are being held by Moscow Gorkom, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, the AUCCTU, and the board of the All-Union Knowledge Society. The readings continued today.

A report entitled "The Creative Labor of the Soviet People During the 11th 5-Year Plan Is the Continuation of the Unparalleled Feat of Workers in the Rear During the Great Patriotic War" was delivered by Comrade Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee. He noted that the present-day labor achievements of Soviet people are keeping alive the glorious traditions of those far-off but unforgettable years.

Comrade Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of Moscow Gorkom, took part in the readings.

SHCHERBITSKIY, FEDORCHUK AT LAW, ORDER CONFERENCE

AU301001 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0330 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Board members and other leading functionaries in the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, chiefs of internal affairs administrations in oblispolkoms and transport, and chiefs of political sections [words indistinct] recently held a conference at the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee headquarters. They discussed the progress made in fulfilling the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the decisions of the CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committees concerning further improvements in the work of Ukrainian organs for the protection of law and order. Reports on the issues discussed were delivered by Gladush, Ukrainian minister of internal affairs, (Borovik), political section chief in the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as chiefs of a number of internal affairs administrations and political sections.

Fedorchuk, USSR minister of internal affairs, and (Plachin), political administration chief in the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, participated in the conference proceedings.

Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, delivered a speech at the conference.

The conference proceedings were attended by Lyashko, Titarenko, Kachalovskiy, Yelchenko, Kapto, and Mukha, Politburo members and candidate members in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; Shevchenko, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium; Osipenko, Ukrainian SSR prosecutor; Zaychuk, Ukrainian minister of justice Yakimenko, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Court; and (?Shevchuk), department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS SESSION ON UKSSR STATE PLAN

AU281011 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0330 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpts] A session of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers was held on 25 January to examine the results of fulfilling the 1984 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR and the 1984 budget of the republic, and measures for fulfilling the 1985 plan and budget. Reports on these subjects were delivered by Masol, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman and Gosplan chairman, and Mostovoy, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Material and Technical Supply.

Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, and Vitaliy Alekseyevich Sologub, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Trade Union Council chairman, participated in the proceedings of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers session.

Aleksandr Pavlovich Lyashko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman, delivered a speech at the session.

NEW KAZAKH OBKOM OFFICIALS ELECTED 29 JAN

LD291637 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today in Arkalyk there was a plenum of the Turgay Obkom of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan which examined organizational matters.

The plenum released Comrade Auyelkbekov from his duties as first secretary of the party obkom in connection with his transfer to other work. Comrade Kuanyskhev was elected first secretary of Turgay Obkom of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan.

A plenum of the Kokchetav Obkom of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan released Comrade Kuanyshev from his duties as first secretary of the party obkom in connection with his transfer to other work.

Comrade (?Sagdiyev) was elected first secretary of Kokchetav Obkom of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan. He had worked as chairman of the Kustanay Oblast Executive Committee.

DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS ANTHOLOGY REVIEWED IN PRAVDA

PM281501 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Jan 85 First Edition p 4

[T. Kolesnichenko book review: "Impressive Documents"]

[Text] The USSR Foreign Ministry Commission for the Publication of Diplomatic Documents, chaired by A.A. Gromyko, has begun publication of Soviet foreign policy documents relating to the present stage of international relations. Under the general heading "For Peace and the Peoples' Security" ["Za Mir i Bezopasnost Narodov"] the Political Literature Publishing House has published four books covering the period 1966-1967.

They include official documents and materials of the CPSU and the Soviet state, speeches and statements by Soviet leaders on foreign policy and international issues, documents on visits by party, government, and other delegations to foreign countries and by foreign delegations to the USSR, statements by the Soviet Government and USSR Foreign Ministry, treaty acts, notes, TASS statements, and other items. Some documents were published for the first time.

As a whole this series of books is designed to give an idea of Soviet foreign policy at the present state -- a policy aimed at the securing of favorable international conditions for Soviet people's creative work, the defense of USSR state interests, the consolidation of the positions of world socialism, support for the peoples' struggle for national liberation and social progress, the prevention of aggressive wars, the attainment of universal and total disarmament, and the consistent implementation of the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

Beginning with Lenin's Decree on Peace, adopted on the day Soviet power was proclaimed, our state has unshakably preserved the continuity and consistency of its foreign policy in the struggle for peaceful coexistence and international cooperation and against war. This course can also be clearly discerned in the period represented by the documents published in the four books.

In this period the USSR's foreign policy activity continued to combine the further intensification of the USSR's friendly relations with the socialist countries, active support for the peoples struggling for their national and social liberation, and resolute resistance to imperialism's aggressive aspirations. This is borne out in particular by the documents relating to the USSR's strenouous struggle to halt the barbaric U.S. war in Vietnam, its armed intervention in the affairs of Laos and Cambodia, and its aggressive actions against Cuba.

Paying special attention to the problems of strengthening European security, the USSR and the other socialist countries came out in 1966 with the proposal to hold an all-European conference.

The documents reflect the persistent and vigorous struggle of the CPSU and Soviet state against the arms race and for disarmament and man's salvation from the threat of nuclear war. As a result of the USSR's persistent efforts, the treaty on the principles of states' activity in the research and use of space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, banning the deployment of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass annihilation in space including near-earth orbits and celestial bodies, was signed in 1967. This document is of very great importance to this day. The task of the nonmilitarization of space is a special, key problem today. Resolving it means erecting a barrier to the unprecedentedly large-scale arms race and preventing a very dangerous new threat to all mankind.

The documents relating to events in the Near East are also topical. The Soviet Government statement made immediately after the start of the 1967 Near East crisis contained a demand for Israel as a first immediate step to eliminate the military conflict, to immediately and unconditionally halt hostilities against the Arab countries, and withdraw its troops behind the truce line. The Soviet Union expanded economic and military aid to these Arab states and put forward a constructive program for the political settlement of the conflict and the elimination of its consequences. This program, like the demands to halt the occupation of Arab lands, continues to serve as the key to the solution of the Near East crisis.

The books also publish numerous documents and materials on the USSR's relations with the United States and the countries of Europe, Asia, Afria, and Latin America.

TANJUG ASSESSES USSR'S ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

LD291824 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1331 GMT 29 Jan 85

[By Aleksandar Novacic]

[Text] Moscow, January 29 (TANJUG) -- An economic experiment aimed essentially at encouraging the maximum use of internal reserves -- believed to be enormous in the Soviet Union -- is in its first year now in 700 Soviet industrial enterprises.

As part of the experiment, conducted under the slogan "Less employees -- larger production," the enterprises involved have had their autonomy extended, within the framework of planned economy, and their initiative and enterprising spirit enhanced.

The enterprises are left a portion of their earnings to use freely, either for wage increases, or for stimulation, technical reconstruction, public services and housing. Sources in Moscow claim that the productivity of labour in experimental enterprises has doubled, while their income and earnings have increased. Nevertheless, some shortfalls have also been noticed.

The enterprises have not achieved the results expected in the pace of modernization of production, reconstruction and introduction of new equipment. Weak points have also proved to exist in the entire network of management. Thus many of the enterprises operating under experimental conditions face the entirely different contitions of work of their sub-contractors.

A poll conducted among the workers in experimental enterprises has shown that they are much more critical towards the new tests and trials in the economy than the official assessments. Workers believe that the experiment should not only be extended to include more enterprises but also deepened. About 60 per cent of those interviewed stated that they are dissatisfied with the growth of personal and collective responsibility for joint work performance, one of the targets of changes.

Sixty per cent of engineers and technicians interviewed in a separate poll replied that the existing system does not stimulate them to work creatively.

The experiment continues, with another 1850 industrial enterprises and over 3000 services listed as experimental since the beginning of 1985.

DOLGIKH ATTENDS ELECTRO-POWER COLLEGIUM SESSION

PM301007 Moscow TRUD in Russian 29 Jan 85 p 1

[TASS report: "The Power Industry's Talks"]

[Text] An extended session of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification took place today jointly with the Presidium of the Electricity Stations and Electrotechnical Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee.

Discussions were held on the industry's tasks in light of the theses and conclusions contained in the speech made by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko at the CPSU Central Committee Politburo meeting on 15 November 1984.

In the report delivered by the minister, Comrade Neporozhniy, and in speeches made by participants at the meeting, the state of affairs in the industry was analyzed and measures were outlined to eliminate existing shortcomings in its work. Planned measures for further increasing the efficiency of electro-power and construction production were considered, and socialist obligations for this year adopted by labor collectives of the enterprises and organizations were approved.

Comrade Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the meeting.

B. Ye. Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and leaders of a number of ministries and departments took part in the collegium's work.

SAKHALIN PORTS ICEBOUND; SHIPS STRANDED

LD292221 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondents' report over video]

[Text] As we have already reported, there is a severe buildup of ice in the Tatar Strait, the Laperouse Strait, and in a considerable area of the waters of the Okhotsk Sea. Here is a report by V. Feoktistov and V. Shinkarev:

An especially large zone of cold air, code-named the (Hollywood Depression), which has formed in the North Pacific Ocean has confounded all traditional ideas about local weather conditions and has pushed the warm Pacific Ocean cyclones far to the south. For nearly 2 months now it has daily he'd the open sea more strongly with an armor of ice and has blocked the straits and bays of the Sakhalin-Kurils basin and the Khabarovsk Kray coast with impassable banks of ice.

Specialists compare it with the extreme conditions of the Arctic navigation season of 1983, conditions unprecedented in the history of sailing.

Mighty bulk carriers, tankers, and Sakhalin-type maritime rail ferries are stuck in the ice at the approaches to Vanino port, and even the Arctic ice-breaker Vladivostok needs help more and more frequently. [pan shot of icebound port and frozen waters; clip of Vladivostok cutting its way through the ice; clip shot on deck an icebound vessel of approaching icebreaker Sakhalin-6 breaking through frozen sea]

We interviewed S.G. Chekin, deputy chief of the Sakhalin shipping line:

[Begin video recording] [Chekin] The situation has grown especially serious and complex as the approaches to our basic port, Vanino. The icebreaker Admiral Makarov, the most powerful of the icebreakers in the Far East basin has started work 1 month earlier than at any time in our experience stretching back for approximately 15 years. As of 10 January it was replaced by the icebreaker Vladivostok. All movement has today come to a complete stop at the approaches to the port of Vanino. We are especially concerned about the transportation situation on the Vanino-Kholmsk line, which is carried out by our Sakhalin-2. Of late, our ferries have been able to sail only with the help from the icebreaker Vladivostok.

To add to the serious situation which the elements have created for us, there is the very serious situation regarding our fuel supplies.

All this is happening despite the steps being taken by the shipping line in order to ensure that the transport process does not grind to a halt. We need urgent and effective help today from the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet. Without a second powerful icebreaker we cannot safeguard the normal work of the port of Vanino and the work of ships on the Vanino-Sakhalin and Vanino-Magadan lines. [end recording]

According to the latest weather forecasts, the airborne ice surveillance service, and space hydrometeorology, no substantial changes in the ice station in the Far Eastern seas are expected in the days to come.

NUCLEAR HEAT, POWER STATIONS PROJECT REPORTED

LD261151 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS-- Projects have been reported ready for nuclear heat and power stations to be built in two Soviet cities -- Odessa and Minsk. Each of these stations will have two energy units comprising 1,000 mw water-moderated reactors, writes MN INFORMATION.

The total power rating of the Soviet nuclear power stations exceed 21 million kilowatts, and nearly six million kilowatts of generating facilities were commissioned over the past year alone, while in the near future, this commissioned capacity is to reach 10-15 million kilowatts a year. Besides, this country has decided on using nuclear energy for domestic heat supplies.

The Soviet Union has accumulated many years of experience in operating the Beloyarskaya nuclear power station in the Urals and the Bilibino nuclear project in the far north. Apart from electricity these stations produce heat for central heating in housing estates and public buildings. Radiation safety is absolutely guaranteed.

The first nuclear thermal power station in this country is to be built in Odessa, and the construction has already started. Besides, this country plans construction of specialized standard nuclear stations for urban areas with a population of 300-400 thousand each. Such stations are under construction in Gorkiy and Voronezh. Estimates show that stations of this type will be highly cost efficient and requires six to eight years to pay off.

BRIEFS

BERKAKIT-TOMMOT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION -- Moscow, 23 Jan (TASS) -- Work has begun on construction of the 380-km Berkakit-Tommot Railway. It will provide access to valuable mineral deposits whose reserves have been calculated at 40 billion tons of coal -- mainly coking coal -- almost 20 billion tons of iron ore, and 2.5 billion tons of apatite. This appatite has been estimated to extend only to depths of 1,500m and can be worked by open cast methods. It is also planned to exploit local vermiculite mica. Good hard-core [shcheben] and marble of many shades has been found on the banks of the River Seligdar, a tributary of the Aldan. The new railway will require about 400 bridges and other structures. Regular traffic should start running on the new line by 1990. Meanwhile, planning work will be carried out on extending the line to Yakutsk. The total length of the new line will be 800 km. [Summary] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1510 GMT 23 Jan 85 LD]

MINISTRY NOTES SHORTCOMINGS IN LAND RECLAMATION

LD291341 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Summary] A meeting of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources noted today that in 1984 over 1.3 million hectares of irrigated and drained land came into use, and 3.2 million hectares of pasture were irrigated. Many agricultural water mains were built, and irrigation systems were greatly improved.

The collegium also noted major shortcomings in the work of certain collectives. For example, Soyuztomskmelioratsiya and Glavnechernozemvodstroy did not fulfill their drainage plans. The land reclaimers of Astrakhan Oblast, Dagestan, and Kalmykia did not fulfill the plan for technical improvement of irrigation systems. There was especially sharp criticism for the leaders of one of the major collectives of the Main Directorate for Construction of Rice State Farms in the republics of Central Asia.

At the center of attention this year, as before, is improving efficiency in using reclaimed land. Before the start of spring sowing, the whole land-improvment network will be cleaned and hydro-technical constructions will be overhauled. Watering is planned for an area of almost 8 million hectares. [period of watering not indicated] The overhaul of watering and other equipment will be completed by 15 April in southern regions and by 1 May in the whole country.

At the same time, construction work continues on major new systems in the RSFSR, Ukraine, and other repulics. Irrigated agriculture will develop more quickly in the northern Caucasus, along the Volga, and in other southern parts of the country. Irrigation construction will continue in the republics of Central Asia, Transcaucasus and Kazakhstan.

FARM OFFICIAL NOTES LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION GROWTH

LD281248 Moscow TASS in English 1201 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS -- A major step forward has been made in realisation of the food programme of the USSR, which was elaborated in 1982. Over a period of two years state purchases of cattle increased by 2.2 million tons, milk -- by 8.2 million tons. Their increment amounted to 14 percent. Production of eggs increased by 3,100 million pieces or 7 percent.

These figures were given in a talk with a TASS correspondent by Lev Kuznetsov, deputy minister of agriculture of the USSR. Such a growth of livestock production is particularly important, stressed Lev Kuznetsov, since weather conditions were unfavourable in the past two years, and that affected the grain crop harvest.

A change in the structure of fodder played its positive role. In the past three years cooperative and state farms increased by a third the hay yield. The quality of all types of fodder improved. All that made it possible not only to increase the production of meat, milk and other animal products, but also to reduce grain forage by 10 million tons.

The increment in meat and milk produciton, said Lev Kuznetsov, was achieved through raising animal productivity. The outlay of labour per unit of production reduced owing to improved breeds of cattle. This work will continue more actively in the future. Conditions for embryo transplantation have now been created at several scientific centres and big farms.

This will make it possible to organize accelerated reproduction of high production cows with the annual milk yield of up to 7,000-8,000 kilogrammes of milk, and also horned meat cattle.

Changes, more favourable for cattle breeding, are now taking place in the general structure of crops in the country: more albuminous crops -- maize, soy beans, lucerne, rape are sown.

Large-scale measures covering the whole agricultural complex are being consistently implemented, said the deputy minister. Vast areas of reclaimed lands, above all in central and northern areas of the country, are assigned for intensive fodder production. This is very important since 70 percent of the country's farm land are in the so-called zones of risky farming, suffering from drought or excess moisture.

The share of big livestock rearing complexes is on the rise. Big livestock rearing complexes have greater possibilities, than small farms, to introduce all-round mechanisation and means of automation of production, progressive methods of labour, to more rationally use fodder and productive possibilities of animals. The average size of the horned cattle farm is now 1,000-1,500 heads, and the pig breeding farm -- 1,500-2,000 heads.

Lev Kuznetsov noted in conclusion that there are still many problems in animal husbandry. They call for solution and unrelaxed efforts. But nobody can now deny indisputable accomplishments in this branch. The evidence of that is improved supplies of animal products for the population.

LIGACHEV ADDRESSES RSFSR AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

LD262044 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] A zonal conference of secretaries and heads of departments of kraykoms and obkoms, chairmen of agro-industrial associations of ASSR's, krays, and oblasts of the Northwestern, Central, Volga-Vyatka, Central Chernozem, North Caucasus, and Volga Regions of the RSFSR took place in Leningrad on 25 and 26 January. There was discussion of questions of the extensive introduction of financial autonomy and collective contracting in livestock raising, of intensifying organizational and political work among livestock workers in light of the decisions of the 26th party congress, the subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, and the speeches of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko.

Comrade Ligachev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the conference.

A report was delivered at the conference by Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Participants of the conference noted that during fulfillment of the country's food program positive changes have been mapped out in livestock raising. The conference examined tasks for the successful carrying out of overwintering of cattle, the creation of good conditions for the labor and rest of livestock workers, and the improvement of their domestic, medical, and cultural services. Participants in the conference became acquainted with the work experience of the collective party organizations of the Detskoselskoye and Gachinskoye Sovkhozes in Leningrad Oblast. They visited livestock farms and talked with livestock farmers.

GENERALS TITOV, KOVTUNOV IN NEW APPOINTMENTS

PM291938 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Jan 85 First Edition p 2

["Our Correspondent" report under general heading "Komsomol Conferences"]

[Text] Northern Group of Forces -- A group of forces Komsomol conference has been held to discuss tasks involved in further improving educational work among youth in light of the party's demands, Comrade K.U. Chernenko's instructions and advice, and the recommendations of the All-Army Conference of Komsomol Organization Secretaries.

The report made at the conference by Major General I. Titov, member of the Military Council and chief of the group of forces political directorate, and the speeches by Colonel General A. Kovtunov, commander of the group of forces, and Comrades V. Guk, A. Usoltsev, and others outlined specific ways of increasing the activeness and professionalism of Komsomol committees and bureaus in the struggle for high combat readiness and tight discipline.

Army General M. Sorokin spoke at the conference.

KULIKOV STATES WW II WON ON SOVIET-GERMAN FRONT

LD291143 Moscow TASS in English 1104 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS -- The attempts by some unconscientious Western historians to prove that the defeat of Italian-German troops at El Alamein (1942) was a "turning point" in the Second World War contradict facts, Viktor Kulikov, first deputy defence minister of the USSR, writes.

Marshal Kulikov stresses in an article published in the January issue of AGITATOR, a journal of the CPSU Central Committee, that the fact of the war "was decided not in Africa, but at Stalingrad and in fierce battles on other sectors of the Soviet-German front where strike groupings of the fascist bloc were routed."

"Of course, operations conducted by the Anglo-American troops in North Africa and Italy did have a certain effect on the developments of the Second World War at that time, but they attracted only up to seven per cent of the Wehrmacht's force," Kulikov writes. "Throughout the war, the Soviet-German front was the chief one by all indicators. The losses in manpower, inflicted to the Wehrmacht on the Soviet-German front, were four times those it suffered in the Mediterranean and Western European theatres, and six times those by the number of dead and wounded."

The Soviet military leader makes the following comparison: The Italian-German troops lost 55,000 officers and men at El Alamein. During the battle for Stalingrad, the enemy lost 1.5 million men in killed, wounded and missing. At Stalingrad, Marshal Kulikov writes, the Wehrmacht lost 32 divisions and three brigades, while 16 divisions suffered crushing defeats.

Compare: The fascist forces in North Africa at that time had just 14 divisions and one brigade, out of which 12 divisions took part in the El Alamein battle.